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WEDDINGS

AND

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

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WEDDINGS AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

WEDDINGS

— AND —

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

WEDDING ETIQUETTE.

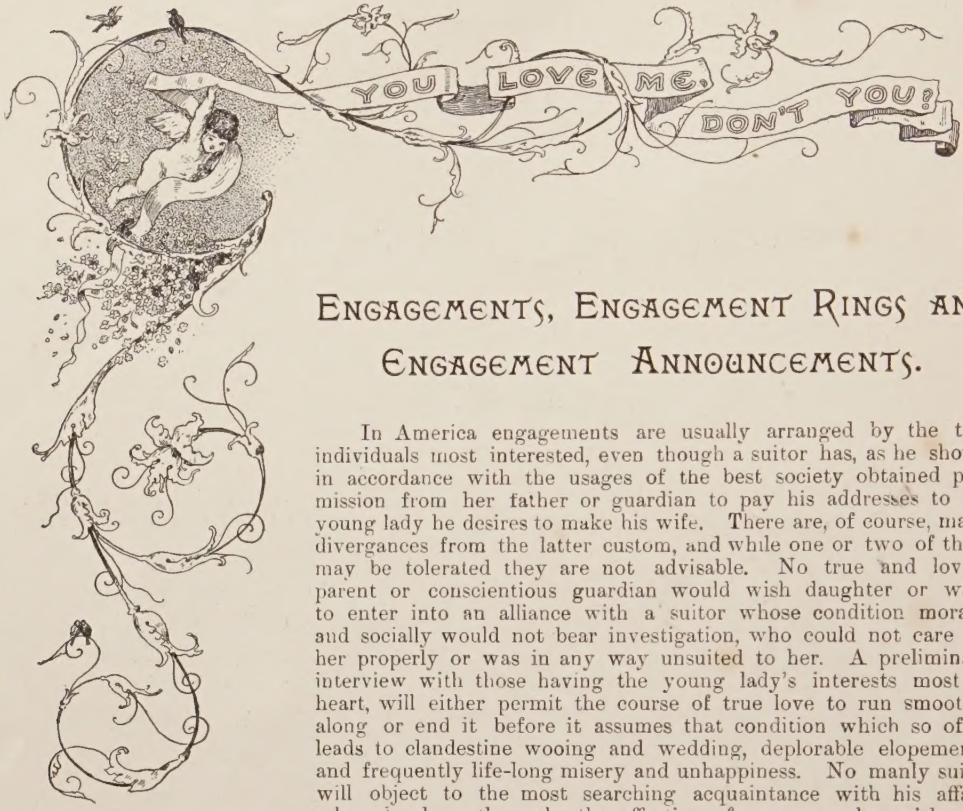
THERE are three important events in the love affairs of a young girl in which happiness and anxiety are inseparably combined, her engagement, her wedding, and the social duties she must as a bride enact. There are customary observances for each event, all well known to the maiden who is "to the manner born," or who, through the kindness of fate or fortune has reached the circle whose dictates govern the functions of the best society.

Someone has said: "How we prize a friend to whom we can take all our doubts and perplexities, with the assurance that we shall receive just the advice or instruction that we require. The wisest of us need such a friend at some time in our existence; for although we may consider ourselves fully equal to the ordinary cares and duties of life, there are sure to be occasions when special effort is required of us, and when, without the counsel of a wise friend, we are likely to make mistakes in regard to those customs which govern well bred people. Such a sense of uncertainty is apt to assail the average young woman just before her wedding, for there are many points connected with this supreme event of her life regarding which she is either doubtful or wholly ignorant."

It is the "average young woman" whose cause we have espoused in preparing many of the pages of this pamphlet, and for whose benefit we have set forth the edicts of the best society concerning the "pomps and vanities" which precede, attend and follow weddings. It must be understood that they are not obligatory but are customary in social circles where good breeding and good circumstances are the environments. It would be in questionable taste, however, should the wedding festivities be conducted on a scale not warranted by the financial status of the bride's family, and especially if the groom be a man of wealth. The inference would be most uncomplimentary and more than likely induce unpleasant gossip. Suit the occasion to the purse so far as expenditures are concerned; but in the observances that are purely social, adhere strictly to the letter of the law. There is no excuse in any circle for an indifference to "good form"; there is, and a commendable one, for a lack of display. Good form never joins hands with bad taste. The simplest wedding may be an exquisite affair; the most ostentatious one a marked example of social ignorance.

With a knowledge of the customs and courtesies practised in the best society of the metropolis, there is no happy maiden of tact and perceptiveness in any part of the country who may not so arrange her wedding festivities that they shall be conducted on an unassailable basis of good form and absolutely correct etiquette.

Wedding anniversaries, like weddings, are governed by certain customs and details, and are now arranged to cover a period extending from the first to the seventy-fifth year of marriage. The usages in the matter of entertainment may vary, but each wedding anniversary occurs a fixed number of years after the ceremony; and human ingenuity seems ever striving to fix upon still another anniversary to celebrate, such pleasent reunions do they prove.



Engagements, Engagement Rings and Engagement Announcements.

In America engagements are usually arranged by the two individuals most interested, even though a suitor has, as he should in accordance with the usages of the best society obtained permission from her father or guardian to pay his addresses to the young lady he desires to make his wife. There are, of course, many divergances from the latter custom, and while one or two of these may be tolerated they are not advisable. No true and loving parent or conscientious guardian would wish daughter or ward to enter into an alliance with a suitor whose condition morally and socially would not bear investigation, who could not care for her properly or was in any way unsuited to her. A preliminary interview with those having the young lady's interests most at heart, will either permit the course of true love to run smoothly along or end it before it assumes that condition which so often leads to clandestine wooing and wedding, deplorable elopements, and frequently life-long misery and unhappiness. No manly suitor will object to the most searching acquaintance with his affairs when he honestly seeks the affection of a woman he wishes to make his wife; and no well-bred parent or guardian to whom he first makes his desires known will conduct such investigations in other than a discreet and delicate manner. Nor should any young girl be willing to accept the attentions of a suitor who is disinclined to reveal his exact status under such inquiries. There should be no needless secrecy either previous to or following engagements.

Only a privilged friend would be justified in asking a girl whether she were engaged to be married, but the habit of denying or concealing an engagement from friends who have the right to know of it is unwise, and contrary to the best customs. An engagement is in its way as worthy of being honored as its consummation, the marriage ceremony; and it is much more dignified to make announcement of it to near friends and relatives a reasonable time before marriage than to feign anger when the possibility of its existing is mentioned. When the parties to a betrothal are well known in society, the announcement is made with more or less formality, according to the wishes of the parties interested. Sometimes it is made at a dinner which is given by the girl's family. The members of the young man's family call within a few days after the announcement upon the girl and her mother, or, if too far removed by distance, write pleasant notes of welcome to her as a prospective member of their family or send her some little gift of value to the family; or even a gift of flowers. If there is a sister in the man's family, the mother may invite the son's *fiancée* to pay her a short visit. It is not considered in good taste to discuss a girl's engagement, even in her own family until the family of the man signifies its approval. Should his family be likely to disapprove, the dignity of his betrothed requires the man to announce his engagement without delay; then in silence must she encounter the disagreeable results of such an announcement; or, if the disapproval be unexpected she may recall her promise should it seem wiser or best for her to do so.

An engagement ring is in best taste when it contains only a single stone. This may be a diamond, ruby, emerald or sapphire, according to individual preference and the circumstances of the prospective husband; and no girl of wisdom and taste will expect or accept from her lover an engagement ring which, in intrinsic value, is beyond his means.

The third finger of the left hand is the one on which both the engagement ring and wedding ring are worn. The wedding ring is always the same—a band of gold—not too heavy, but sufficiently so to last a lifetime. The round edge is preferred, because it is more comfortable to wear. The initials of both parties and the date are usually engraved in the engagement ring. The date of of marriage and the initials of the contracting parties are engraved in the wedding ring.

It is in very bad taste to wear an engagement ring or, indeed, any other ring on the first finger, the third and fourth alone being the ring fingers. The engagement ring remains on the third finger of the left hand until just before the marriage ceremony, when it should be transferred to the corresponding finger of the right hand, the wedding ring taking its place on the left.

If an engagement bracelet is presented, it is worn on the left wrist; but as this form of betrothal was merely a passing fad, the girl of the present will hardly care to adopt it, since the bracelet is almost hopelessly out of date; but a ring can always be worn.

A pretty foreign custom, which finds many followers here, is to choose a plain gold ring for the emblem of betrothal, and to use it also for the wedding ring, the double inscription indicating the dates of betrothal and marriage being made inside, and a jewelled ring worn above it as a guard after marriage.

The public announcement of an engagement may be made in several ways. At a dinner given by the *fiancée's* family to a few intimate friends, the engagement is usually announced after the dessert is removed. An invitation may mention that an occasion is to celebrate a daughter's betrothal, and the gentleman's name is therein given.

At such dinners, the father takes out the engaged daughter, placing her at his right hand, and the mother is escorted by the daughter's betrothed. If the invitations have contained no mention of the engagement, the above arrangement prepares them for what is to follow, but no allusion must be made to what is anticipated.

At the end of the repast the father rises, lifts his glass of wine and drinks to the health of his son, mentioning the name of the young man his daughter is to marry. Each guest bows to the son, at the same time lifting a wine glass. The betrothed man sometimes responds by thanking host and guests, bowing to them and his *fiancée* and drinking to their happiness. All again lift their glasses and bow to him in return. After the ladies have left the dining room the gentlemen devote a short time to general congratulations and cigars. When no wine is served, the host simply rises and presents his future son-in-law to his guests. Hand-shaking and informal congratulations follow. The ladies then repair to the drawing-room and the gentlemen are left to further congratulate the prospective groom.

Upon this consummation of an engagement, the engaged pair separately write notes of announcement to their intimate friends among whom are likely to be the future bridesmaids, maid of honor, best man and ushers. Congratulatory replies are obligatory but gifts, even of flowers, are not.

When parents announce by notes the engagement of a son or daughter, the recipients send congratulatory replies to the writer only, but these include kindest wishes etc., to the engaged.

It is not good form to send the first official announcement concerning an alliance in the form of a wedding invitation. If a ceremonious announcement cannot be made, a girl or her mother may convey an announcement by note or call.

The Wedding-Day.

The day of the marriage is generally first discussed by the engaged pair, and after the usual persuasion of the impatient groom elect, the procrastinating maiden finally consents to an appointed time, and the matter is then deferred to the mother of the *fiancée*, who either approves of the choice or names a day more convenient for the ensuing and necessary details attendant upon the preparation of a *trousseau* and a suitable household outfit. It is the father who is asked for his daughter, and the mother who decides upon the time when she will give her child to the man who has won her. The average man protests against a remote wedding day; but the average man sees the wisdom of the delay, when his bride gives herself into his keeping with an outfit that will prevent a demand upon his purse for similar supplies for a long time in the future. This outfit includes not only her personal raiment, but house linen suited to all the necessities of her new home; and both should be as complete as the family purse will allow, but in no case should the supply unwarrantably exceed the domestic revenue.

By Whom Are The Expenses of a Wedding Assumed?

Some very positive and negative statements are suggested by questions which are often asked, and we include them under the above heading.

The groom's right to assume any of the expenses connected with his wedding extends only to the provision of the carriage in which he and his best man ride to the place appointed for the ceremony; the same carriage being used by the married pair after leaving the church and again when they go from the bride's house. He also presents a memento to each of the ushers and bridesmaids and a gift to the best man, pays for the ring and bouquet for the bride and also pays the marriage fee. He does not provide carriages for the guests or the bride's family, nor does he pay for the invitations or anything else connected with the wedding. To permit him to assume any expenses, except those named, would be to allow him privileges which do not belong to him. This point is so well understood by those familiar with social etiquette that to emphasize it may seem unnecessary, but nevertheless a great deal of indecision and doubt is expressed regarding it by many who ask for information concerning the etiquette of weddings. Such questions cannot be conscientiously overlooked in dealing with the subject, especially as they indicate a desire to follow correct usages. If the bride to be is removed from the care of relatives who might naturally be expected to provide for her upon this occasion, or if her family be unable to assume the financial burden of a wedding and its requirements, she shows good taste by making no pretense to display and registering her nuptial vows in the presence only of parents and clergyman. Even though the groom be able and eager to gratify her wishes to call her friends about her, she cannot with proper respect for herself permit it. The after-cards or announcements may be considered as would any other subsequent expense which might occur; but when such cards are issued to announce a marriage which has been unattended by a reception or breakfast only on account of illness or death, they are ordered and paid for by the bride's mother.

Announcement cards which simply announce the marriage of a couple, and read thus:

"*Mr. John Jones,*
Miss Adele Forbes,
Married."

are paid for by the groom, but the ordinary announcement cards sent out by the bride's parents are paid for by them.

Invitations.

Invitations to a wedding are issued in the names of the bride's parents, or, if one be dead in the name of the surviving parent. If neither be living, the nearest relatives or guardians of the bride expectant issue the invitations, and to them the acknowledgments are made within from three to five days, the acknowledgements also including congratulations. As this is a point upon which many questions have been asked, it may be well to emphasize the fact that the degree of acquaintanceship does not affect the course to be followed. One may know the bridegroom and not the bride, or *vice versa*, or one may be a friend of both and not have met the parents of either; but no matter how this may be, or how much more important the event in prospect may be to both bride and groom than to any one else, it is not to either, but to the one who issues the invitations, that the recepient must address himself or herself.

All invitations are issued two weeks or even longer in advance. It is not complimentary to persons living at a distance to receive cards so near the date of the ceremony that attendance would be impossible. Even though it may be expected that the distance will prevent them from attending, invitations (if sent at all) should be forwarded in time to reach them as long before the event as they are received by those who reside nearer. The English fashion of solemnizing marriage in church prevails to a large extent in all the principal American cities, but good form does not demand here, as it does in England, that the ceremony shall take place in the morning, though morning weddings (which means those that take place previous to sunset) are quite as frequent as those which are celebrated in the evening, and are growing more numerous.

The following, engraved in script upon note-paper, is the formula prevailing for wedding invitations when the ceremony is to take place in church.

Mr. and Mrs. William King
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter,
Evelyn Gladys King
to
Mr. Edward Lee Lester,
on Wednesday, February Fourteenth,
at half-past Twelve o'clock.
Trinity Church.

To relatives and intimate friends cards for the reception, which usually follows at the home of the bride's parents, are also sent with the invitations. Some variations in the wording of these cards are noticeable, but a form frequently adopted is as follows:

Reception
from One until Three o'clock,
3 *West* 31*st Street.*

Another formula for such a card is:

At Home
after the ceremony,
3 *West* 31*st Street.*

A more ceremonious invitation to the subsequent festivities is conveyed by a card, which is in the usual style for receptions and is issued in the names of the bride's parents.

If there is reason to believe that the church will be crowded by people not invited, it is customary to have admission cards engraved. These are simply slender slips of pasteboard, with the following, or some similar, inscription upon them:

Please present this card at
Trinity Church,
Wednesday, February Fourteenth.

If the young people have matured their plans so far as to have made choice of a future residence, "At Home" cards are included for those whom they desire to retain in their social circle. These may be as follows:

At Home
on Tuesdays, March Thirteenth and Twentieth,
from Four until Six o'clock.
3 *West* 31*st Street.*

If any, who through their affiliations with the elder families may be bidden to the church celebration, are omitted, they should not consider that they have cause for offence.

An invitation to a church wedding, which does not include an invitation to the reception, should be acknowledged by leaving cards upon those who invite you and, if the "at home" cards of the young people are inclosed, by calling upon them during the season and including the young matron in your visiting list. If all parties live out of town, send your cards by mail. If you are intimately acquainted with the family of the groom, there is no impropriety in writing a friendly note congratulating them upon the felicitous event and expressing kind wishes for the young people.

If a man is invited to a church wedding and finds it impossible to attend, he must send his cards to the person inviting him. If two names appear in the invitation, he responds to both names upon the envelope and sends two cards by mail, or by messenger upon the wedding day. Should he be present at church, he leaves or sends his cards within a week, addressing them to those who invited him. If they are strangers and have invited him because he is a friend of the groom, he does not call—simply sends his cards.

A great deal of doubt seems to exist as to whether invitations to wedding festivities require to be answered. Invitations to a wedding breakfast certainly should be replied to as quickly and ex-

plicitly as dinner invitations; and if an invitation to a wedding presupposes the intention of the givers to entertain the recipients for any length of time beyond that devoted to the wedding festivities, as may be necessary when friends are invited from a distance, the obligation to accept or decline at once is equally urgent. An invitation by note should be answered. It may seem informal, but its informality is of the nature which does not permit of ignoring the attention. Invitations to witness the ceremony at the church only are acknowledged by sending or leaving cards for the lady who issues the invitations.

A lady, who has been invited from a distance to the house of a friend to attend a wedding, is acting thoughtfully and kindly if she replies that she will be pleased to accept the invitation to be present at the wedding, but knowing that many guests must necessarily be entertained, she will upon her arrival in town go to a hotel with her maid, and, after the young couple have departed and the guests dispersed, will remove to her friend's house for a visit.

An invitation to the wedding of a school friend, issued by an aunt and uncle whom you have never met, should be as formally and speedily acknowledged as though the prospective bride were not an intimate friend, entirely irrespective of whatever correspondence you may have with her.

A correct formula for declining an invitation written in the third person, is as follows:

"*Miss Bowman thanks Mr. and Mrs. Harding for their kind invitation to their niece's wedding, and regrets her inability to accept.*"

If you are in mourning, the fact will be quite apparent from the stationery used, and will be readily understood to be the deterring cause.

One may always decline to officiate as bridesmaid, even for an intimate friend; but as a request to act in this capacity is presumed to indicate special regard, it would be well to accompany a refusal with some reasonable excuse, which need not, however, betray matters one would rather keep entirely private. It is always permissible to decline graciously, without giving special reasons.

The bride always presents her bridesmaids each with a few invitations in stamped envelopes to send to friends whom they desire to invite to witness the pageant. The bridesmaid simply slips her visiting card into each invitation and addresses the envelope to the favored person.

The Proper Attire for Weddings.

When we consider that the wedding-day is *the* day in a woman's life, we have thorough sympathy with her who desires as handsome a wedding as purse and surroundings will admit. The most elaborate wedding is that celebrated in church, with bridesmaids, maids of honor, ushers, music, and a great concourse of friends.

The bride at such a wedding prefers simplicity in her dress—costly simplicity, however. Heavy white silk, white velvet and white *mousseline de soie* are all suitable for the gown, but the real wedding material is white satin. On another page in this pamphlet will be found a full description of the prevailing fabrics and decorations for the gowns of brides and bridesmaids. The dress should be very long, with a sweeping train, and long, white undressed kid gloves should be worn. The third finger of the left hand glove is usually ripped, so the ring may be quickly slipped on. This, however, is a matter of taste; and if the bride prefers to remove her glove, it is the duty of the maid of honor to hold her bouquet during the removal. The veil should be very full and reach to the end of the train. A bride should wear very little jewelry on her wedding day, any display at such a time being considered in poor taste.

When the service is to be followed by communion, as is now frequently the case, the bride usually carries an ivory-white prayer-book instead of the conventional bouquet. When the bouquet is carried, it should be very large and tied with white ribbon, the ends of which fall far down upon the skirt in front. Orange blossoms are seldom made up into bouquets, lillies-of the-valley, Nephetos roses and bride roses being the flowers most generally favored.

The etiquette for day and evening weddings varies but little, and the chief differences are those which affect the style of dress. A bride is privileged to wear full evening dress to her wedding, even though it take place at ten in the morning; but the groom, best man and ushers, and all the guests at a day wedding wear morning dress. The latter consists of a dark frock coat and waistcoat of prevailing style, lighter trousers, a stiff hat and light or white scarf, with gloves which may be of any shade suited to street wear, but not of evening tint. The wearing of gloves is recommended by etiquette, but individual opinions and the obvious etiquette of dress on this point are often overruled by personal preferences. We state both the rule and the exceptions when we say that gloves

are a part of morning dress for gentlemen, and also when we add that many gentlemen, bridegrooms included, go ungloved to morning weddings. Gloves, when worn, should be of pearl color, with same colored stitching for groom and best man; but with black stitching for ushers.

We have said the bride may be as elaborately arrayed for her wedding in the morning as when it takes place in the evening. Not so the groom; at an evening wedding, at church or at home, unless all the observances are of the most quiet character, he, the best man and the ushers must all wear evening dress, which is always the same and does not need to be described here. At an evening wedding the guests should wear evening dress.

There is a delicate and refined feeling, not entirely extinguished, in favor of high bodices and sleeves extending to the elbow, or a little below, for bridal wear, and many of the most elegant wedding gowns are made in this style. In England they are always made so, but a late fashion is evidenced in the appearance of the bride and her maid in low-necked, short-sleeved gowns at morning as well as at evening weddings. Any bride who desires to wear a white gown need not hesitate because she cannot afford expensive fabrics, as very simple veilings, surahs, cashmeres, etc., are always sure of approval if tastefully made up; but with simple textures there should be no attempt to ape the superb train, which is only in accord with the magnificence of silken textures that fall readily into its graceful lines. Orange blossoms are a bride's favorite flowers for garlands, but they are not always procurable, and white roses, stephanotis, valley lillies, etc., are often chosen instead. Fine silk tulle makes the most becoming veil, but the possessors of real point rarely allow this fact to influence them. The bride's bouquet is quite large, and in some instances brides have left their bouquets at home. When there is not even one bridesmaid to assist, this seems the most sensible, if not the most poetical, way of disposing of it, pending its final disintegration into as many parts as there are maids, which process takes place when the bride, just before entering the carriage to drive away from home after the reception, throws it toward the group of merry maids, who claim it as their perquisite and treasure its remains as a fair omen.

Bridesmaids' toilettes are usually planned with reference to the style of the bride's gown and in deference to whatever fancies she may have regarding the costuming of the chosen friends whom she desires to have about her. Of course a bride would not willingly inflict an unbecoming style or color upon a bridesmaid, but she may designate the colors which she desires grouped, and her maids are not supposed to object. Complexions and the effects of certain tints upon them are considered before an unalterable decision is made. Delicate colors are usually chosen for the maids' dresses, and the skirts are of walking length; but this general rule does not bar out any individual fancy, which frequently leads to the choice of white fabrics of lesser value than the bridal gown and of making them up with short trains. In these minor matters personal preference is umpire. It is not good taste, however, for some of the maids to wear trained and others gowns of walking length. A group of bridemaids are often costumed in historic styles, and all their gowns are fashioned alike, with striking differences of colors. Sometimes they wear broad hats, or bonnets with short veils. There is no limit to the picturesqueness of attire permitted them.

It is always allowable but never compulsory for a bride to present her maids with their gowns. She often does so when her desire to have a certain result developed is fostered by ability to provide the means. They carry baskets, fans or bouquets of blossoms chosen for the harmony or the contrast they present in conjunction with the tint of the gowns and these may be, as a pretty compliment, presented by the bride.

The bridesmaids may be many or few. The color of the maids' dresses should be most carefully chosen, that there may be no discord; and never more than two colors are seen. These may be pink and white, yellow and white or pale-blue and white, or white may be worn alone. The two in pink should walk together, with the two in white following, or *vice versa.*

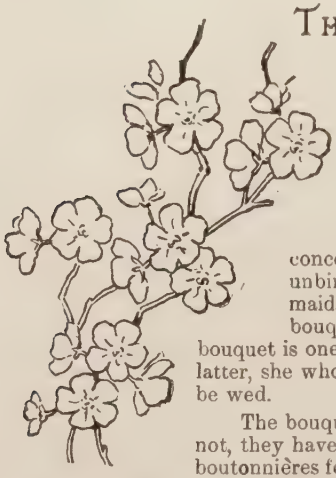
Not infrequently some one asks if a travelling costume may be worn by the bride at a church wedding to which many guests are invited. Such a costume is often worn by brides who do not wish to endure the fatigue of a reception and whose faith in the sacramental nature of the marriage vows leads them to desire celebration of the compact in a church. A tailor-made suit of wool goods properly fills the requirements of a "travelling suit," but gowns worn at church weddings are usually more elaborate confections of silk, velvet or other rich goods in combination with some simpler fabric, which is of itself handsome and yet renders the gown suitable for a short jaunt. It is usually exchanged for the travelling dress proper at the first stop on the trip. If only a few witnesses are requested to be present at the ceremony, the bride may be attired as simply as circumstances direct. For a church wedding the bride may be clad in her travelling dress; but she can only wear a veil with a white gown.

Although the practice of wearing gloves by the bride at a home wedding is generally favored even when a bonnet is not worn, it may be set aside without violating sensible etiquette whenever a departure in this direction is in keeping with attending circumstances. A girl, who is to be married and receive the good wishes of her friends, attired in a toilette she is to change subse-

quently for a plain travelling dress, may dispense with gloves. Instead of carrying a bouquet, she may wear a handsome bunch of roses or rich blossoms upon the corsage. Artificial flowers for such a purpose would be in poor taste; indeed natural ones may be omitted, but as most brides receive flowers and like to have them about them during the time they are repeating their marriage vows, a corsage bouquet often receives preference over an ordinary bouquet.

There is no reason (as some appear to think) why a country bride should not wear a trained dress and a veil. Indeed, as a girl's wedding is generally the most noteworthy happening in her life, the possible extravagance of a long white gown and a veil should surely be forgiven her.

The Bridal Bouquet.



Even though a bride may hold a prayer-book during the ceremony, she discards it afterward for the bridal bouquet. Sometimes the bouquet, in fan shape, is swung from the side by a ribbon, which plan permits the presence of both prayer-book and flowers during the ceremony.

Sometimes the bouquet is composed of small separate bouquets bound together by a ribbon, one of the bouquets concealing a ring. As the bride departs for her wedding trip, she unbinds the ribbons and tosses the separated bouquet among her bridesmaids. It is a pleasant superstition that the maid getting the ring bouquet will be the next bride. Often when there is no ring and the bouquet is one mass of flowers, the bride tosses it among her maids, and of the latter, she who is fortunate enough to secure it is looked upon as the one next to be wed.

The bouquets carried by the bridesmaids may be the gift of the groom. If not, they have been provided by the bride's family. The latter also provides the boutonnières for the best man and ushers. White ribbons, called favors, are added to the flowers given the ushers, but the best man wears flowers only. The boutonnières are uniform in color and arrangement, but the bridesmaids' bouquets differ to suit the color of their gowns. The bridal bouquet may be composed of a bride's favorite flowers, whether they are white lilacs, rosebuds, apple blossoms, orchids, jasmines or any delicate white or almost white blossom.

Floral Decorations.

The floral decorations at weddings transcend description. They represent the floral tributes of the tropics and of the temperate zones, and they transform the most uncompromising stone and mortar into bowers of bloom and forests of foliage. The fashions which prevail in their arrangement are not controlled by any law of etiquette. Indeed, all that etiquette has to do with such accessories is to advise that ultra-conspicuous effects in every direction be avoided; it does not interdict anything that is sanctioned by good taste.

In order to convey a fair idea of some of the floral and other decorations seen at grand weddings we append the following description of a wedding in diplomatic circles which occurred but a short time ago:

"The most brilliant wedding that has taken place for years occurred on the evening of December 4th. The wedding had been the chief topic among society people for weeks, and great was the desire to obtain invitations. These, however, were confined to the 400.

The church was crowded, and hardly a seat was to be had some time before the time set for the ceremony. The decorations of the altar were beautiful. On the railing in front of the choir loft was a bank of exquisite roses. On either side of the organ itself were two large American flags, half hidden by a screen of smilax. The pulpit itself was decorated with ferns and smilax, and over the doors on both sides of the pulpit were trailing smilax and maile.

Promptly at 8 o'clock Mr. A. F. J——, who presided over the organ, played the introductory music. At 8.05 o'clock the wedding march from Lohengrin was played, and the bridal party came in at the left-hand door of the church. First came six of the ushers, walking in couples, and follow-

ing them the bridesmaids. The bride, on the arm of Chief Justice J—— brought up the rear. As they entered the church the bride's mother, escorted by several naval officers, entered the door on the other side.

The bride was met at the altar by the groom and his best man. Dr. —— read the service of the Episcopal church. When the last solemn words were spoken the bride and groom, followed by the bridesmaids and ushers, left the church by the right-hand aisle, to the music of Mendelssohn's Wedding March, and drove to the residence of the bride's family.

The bride wore a plain white satin dress, and the usual veil and orange blossoms. Two of the bridesmaids wore pink bengaline and carried pink carnations, and the other two were dressed in white silk mull, trimmed with white satin ribbons. They carried white flowers.

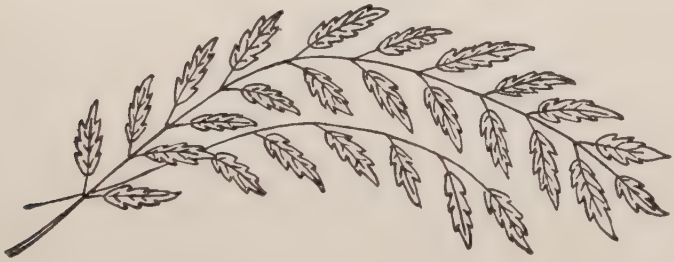
After the ceremony the majority of the people who were at the church went to the house of the bride's mother, where a large reception was given in honor of the wedded pair. There the decoration of both the house and grounds were profuse and beautiful. In the yard were innumerable Japanes lanterns, that cast a fairy-like light over the lovely grounds. Over the front door of the house large flags were draped. Inside the house was a bower of flowers. The parlor on the right-hand side of the hall was used by the bride and groom for receiving the congratulations of their friends.

There was no marriage bell, but instead a large star of marguerites under a canopy of white tarlatan, backed with maile and ferns. The piano, in another corner of the room, was a mass of carnations. Wreaths of tube roses were extended around the walls, and a large bank of roses almost filled one side of the room. Potted plants, maiden hair and maile formed the other decorations. The stairway in the hall was a mass of green maile and smilax, having been twined in and out of the bannisters.

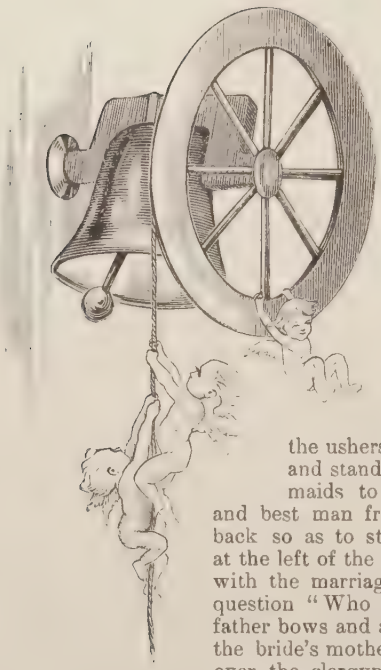
The rooms opposite that used as a reception room by the bridal couple were also beautifully arranged. There were large stands of chrysanthemums, and roses and carnations in profusion. The walls were decorated with flags, prominent among which was a large Chinese ensign, occupying nearly all of one side of the room.

A large lanai had been built to be used as a supper room. The walls consisted solely of large and brilliant colored flags, and the soft light cast by the Japanese lanterns made it a beautiful retreat. Supper was served at small tables. The presents received by the happy couple were numerous and elegant, but were not displayed."

Floral arches, canopies in the form of large parasols, and huge bells are all decorations familiar to every one and are generally arranged by a florist. They need not be adopted, however, unless desired. The banking and twining of flowers about a room or the interior of a church is quite as popular.



CHURCH WEDDINGS.



THE etiquette of all grand weddings is essentially the same, but agreeable variations, expressive of the fancy of the bride or indicative of individual taste, usually impart some distinctive features. The only essential variation is the use or disuse of a ring. In the Episcopalian and Roman Catholic churches a ring is obligatory. In others it may be used if the bride so requests, as generally she does. Sometimes rings are placed upon the hands of both bride and groom, but this is not common.

The groom goes to the church in company with his best man and awaits the arrival of the bride, who enters with her father. The bridesmaids precede her, and the ushers, having seated the guests, are in readiness to lead the procession to the altar. They form in pairs and next to them follow the bridesmaids, also in pairs, arranged according to their heights and the colors of their toilettes. Lastly, the bride with her father, upon whose right arm she leans. At the altar the ushers separate, stepping back to permit the maids to pass through and stand nearest the bride, or they pass to the right and the bridesmaids to the left; the groom who has entered with the clergyman and best man from the vestry takes the bride from her father, who steps back so as to stand behind her, and the bride and groom with the bride at the left of the groom, stand before the officiating clergyman, who proceeds with the marriage service according to the formula of his faith. When the question "Who giveth this woman to be married to this man" is asked, the father bows and after a moment leaves the group and takes his place beside the bride's mother, who is seated in a front pew on the left. The service over, the clergyman shakes hands with the bride and groom, and the twain, who are now one, walk down the aisle followed by bridesmaids and ushers. It is considered rather awkward for the groom to turn around so as to offer his right arm, and more easy and less ostentatious for him to draw the bride's right hand within his left arm and thus conduct her to the carriage which takes them to her home. The vestibule reached, the bride is quickly cloaked, the happy pair are assisted to their carriage and speed onward, after which the maids are quickly put into their carriages and often reach the house first, in order to meet the bride with a welcome at the portal. The ushers also are driven from the church to the house.

There are additions and modifications which are made in order to give a bridal *cortège* a distinctive stamp, which shall leave its impression upon the minds of those who have assisted. First, there are the child bridesmaids, tiny tots of three, four, or five years, in Greenaway frocks, who precede the bride and her father and carry baskets of roses, which they strew in her path as she walks down the aisle, a wife. Not less admired or picturesque is the fashion of selecting from among her young male relatives small boys who, dressed as pages, follow the bride as train bearers. When they are not included in the bridal party, children laden with flowers sometimes rise in a group from pews near the front and scatter their fragrant offerings along the way from the altar to the carriage. Children under ten years may be very picturesquely attired, and those over that age are rarely selected, except it be in the case of a brother, who may at any age take the place of a deceased father in giving the bride away.

One hesitates to recommend a rehearsal of the incidents connected with what most people are pleased to think a very sacred occasion, but if the picturesque be aimed at, its successful attainment can be relied upon only by thoroughly acquainting all who participate with the part they are to take.

The question whether the contracting parties and their attendants shall kneel before or during a part of the ceremony is decided by the formula of the service. It is not a matter of etiquette.

In some places it is customary for the groom to escort the bride's mother to her seat, the bride following upon the arm of her father. The groom steps forward until in front of the clergyman, where he takes his bride from the hand of her father. When this arrangement is followed, the

bridesmaids, if there be any, are sometimes escorted by the ushers, and at the altar the maids turn to the left and the men to the right; but this arrangement has no longer the approval of fastidious persons. Still those who are slow to yield to innovations may follow their preference with the reflection that they are walking the hymeneal road after the manner of ancestors whose names are lustrous in social history, and not unknown to fame; but we must repeat, this is not a present fashion, nor is it likely ever to be revived in fashionable circles.

The bride enters the church on the arm of her father, brother or some other male relative, but after the ceremony she walks by the side of her husband.

A girl who lives in the country need not feel that she cannot be married in church if she so desires. The chief objection to a church wedding in the country is the presence of numerous uninvited guests, who often crowd out those bidden to the ceremony. By good management, however, this can be avoided. It is difficult in a small town, where everybody knows everybody else, to insist upon cards of admission at the church door; but it should, as a rule, be done, that the wedding may proceed "decently and in order." In case this plan is deemed unwise, as likely to give offense, the two center aisles of the church should be reserved for the invited guests.

A young woman may attend a wedding without an escort, if accompanied by her chaperon.

House Weddings.

House weddings are less fatiguing than church weddings, and timid brides prefer that their nuptials shall be celebrated at home. Bridesmaids and best men are not usually such conspicuous features here, probably because they are less essential. The clergyman enters and stands facing the guests, who have all assembled; and the two who are about to be joined in the bonds of matrimony enter, arm-in-arm; or the groom enters with the clergyman and stands facing the doorway, through which the bride is soon visible on the arm of her father, by whom she is conducted to the groom, through an aisle formed of white ribbons held by girl friends or tiny nephews and nieces selected by her. An orchestra stationed in the hall, or a single performer at the piano, may greet her with the wedding march, and when the giving and taking of the ring is reached one of her girl friends who stands nearest may, as pre-arranged, receive her bouquet and hold it until the completion of the ceremony. Less formality does not entail less consideration for the agitation which the event may cause, nor does it necessarily rob it of the accessories which one likes to associate with the happy plighting of the marriage vows.

Invitations to a house wedding, when all the guests are invited to witness the marriage ceremony, do not differ from those issued for church weddings, except that the residence instead of the church is mentioned. But when a larger number of the guests are invited to a wedding reception than are requested to be present at the ceremony, it is proper to issue invitations in the following style:

Mr. and Mrs. William King
request the pleasure of your company
at the wedding reception of their daughter,
Evelyn Gladys
and
Mr. Edward Lee Lester,
Wednesday Evening, February Fourteenth,
from Nine until Eleven o'clock.
3 *West* 31*st Street.*

For those who are invited to the ceremony cards are inscribed as follows:

Ceremony at half-past Eight o'clock.

The refreshment room is open during the reception, and guests are shown to it by the ushers or directed there by the bride's family. Lavish preparations are often made, but they are not necessitated by such an invitation, and very often ices, cake and lemonade or punch constitute the refreshments.

If no sort of engraved invitations are to be sent out, only notes or verbal invitations to friends, and neither bridesmaids nor best man is to assist, what then is the etiquette, has been asked. In whatever form the invitations are issued, they should be extended by the bride's parents; but, when

this is impracticable, a young lady may invite the friends whose presence she desires, either verbally or by note, and some friend who may be known to most of them may receive them. This friend takes the place of hostess and may ask others to assist her. If refreshments are offered after the ceremony, she takes a hostess' place in seeing that all are waited upon and may ask any gentleman present to assist her.

It is usual in such circumstances to invite only a few witnesses to the ceremony and afterward send out announcement cards on note sheets engraved as follows:

Mr. Edward Lee Lester,
Miss Evelyn Gladys King,
Married,
Wednesday, February Fourteenth, 1894.
Newburg, New York.

This method of announcing a wedding is also adopted when the ceremony is private owing to illness or death in the family of either the bride or groom. The announcement is then issued in the name of the bride's parents or next of kin, and the wording is varied accordingly, thus:

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown
announce the marriage of their daughter
Marguerite
to
Mr. Randall Williams,
on
Tuesday, June Sixteenth,
at
Rochester, New York.

At home after October first,
21 *Washington Street,*
Auburn, New York.

Calls, Announcement Cards, Etc.

When formal observances prevail, calls are not made upon a bride until she signifies her readiness to see her friends. If cards announcing her reception days are included with the wedding invitations, calls are, of course, made on those days. Even though it may be known that the newly wedded pair have returned and are at home, it is not in order to call until requested. When the wedding has been entirely private and it is understood that cards are not to be issued, friends will use their own judgment in calling within a reasonable time after the bride has become established in her new home.

During the first year of their married life the husband and wife are supposed to pay calls together. For this reason a visiting card should read thus:

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Alden Phelps.
Tuesdays. 32 *Essex Place.*

Individual cards are of course used by both for other purposes.

The combined card has many foes; but it is not used for ceremonious calls after the first bridal round is completed. When the husband cannot accompany his wife on their calls, this card left in person by the wife is accepted as a return call. It is also a convenient card to send with wedding gifts or when making inquiries for the sick; and may be sent or left by either as a condolence or congratulation.

The recipient of a card announcing a wedding should consider himself or herself remembered as one whom the wedded pair desire to retain as a friend, and the fact of not being acquainted with the bride does not affect the matter. If residing in the same town, and the announcement is made in the name of the bride's parents, a call should be made or a card left in person within ten days. If the announcement includes the future address of the young people, a call is due them also, and should be made upon an "at home" date if one or more are specified; but if no address is given, then all that can be done until they are heard from further is to recognize the parents' courtesy in sending the card, and remember that whenever occasion offers this testimonial of remembrance deserves the recognition expressed by a call.

Wedding Receptions.

UPON reaching home the wedded pair take their position in the reception room and receive the congratulations and good wishes of their friends. The bride does not advance to meet her guests; she receives them cordially and with dignity and keeps her place from half an hour to an hour and a half, according to the number of the guests.

The parents of the bride stand a little beyond the newly wedded couple and receive the guests as they pass beyond the bridal group. The parents of the groom, if present, are near them and are, of course, recipients of similar attentions on the part of the guests. Sometimes the bridal company are stationed in one room and the elder couples in another, this division being a wise one when a large number of guests are invited and there is liability of overcrowding the space about the bride, who is, of course, the center of attraction.

The refreshments at a wedding reception may be as simple or as elaborate as desired. They are usually served from the buffet, and guests may go at any time during the reception to the refreshment room, where they are helped by the attendants, the ushers exercising surveillance over this part of the entertainment to the extent of seeing that ladies unattended by gentlemen are invited to go in. Tea and coffee or other hot drinks are not considered essential, but *bouillon* in cups is usually provided in winter, wine being offered or withheld according to the scruples of the entertainers. A suitable menu for the wedding feast consists of *bouillon*, lobster chops, oyster pâtés, salads, ice cream, ices, fancy cakes, bonbons, fruit and coffee. The refreshments should be served from one large table, unless the house is large and the guests few, when small tables may be used.

Our terse American way of designating the style of service which does not include the regular seating of all the guests at a table is to call it a "stand-up" affair, and this is by far the most general method of serving; but several small tables are usually spread, and at these the bridal party and special or elderly guests are seated by the ushers, who see that they are properly served.

Wedding Breakfasts.

When only a comparatively small number of guests are invited to the house, a breakfast is often served in the English fashion, all the guests being seated at table. With the invitation to the ceremony are enclosed cards engraved as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. William King
request the pleasure of your company
at Breakfast,
Wednesday, February Fourteenth,
at One o'clock.
3 *West* 31*st Street.*

Breakfast is served soon after the arrival of the guests. The bridal party usually have a table by themselves and are arranged in pairs with the best man and maid of honor together, and the

other maids and ushers are also paired in accordance with their congeniality or personal preferences. Ladies wear their bonnets to table, but remove heavy wraps, and are escorted by gentlemen who are requested to take them in by the hostess. The groom leads with the bride, and the bride's father follows with the groom's mother; the groom's father takes in the bride's mother, and the best man has the honor of escorting the maid of honor or the first bridesmaid.

In the matter of escorts, in the extent and variety of viands and in the style of service, the breakfast is almost, if not quite, as formal as a dinner. Tea, coffee, etc., are not, however, poured at table, and strictly speaking, they are not considered elements of this social feast; but for many good reasons they are not entirely banished, and attendants at an American wedding breakfast can be relied upon to bring one a cup of tea or coffee from the sideboard. In winter hot *bouillon* and chocolate are also served, and in summer cool iced drinks, which may include claret or champagne, punches, etc.

A wedding breakfast is usually served about mid-day, and a menu suitable for this hour would be quite as appropriate for a supper. There might be a center and four smaller floral decorations upon the table, and several pretty dishes of salted almonds, candied fruits, olives confections and fancy cakes. Of salads there should be two dishes each, of chicken, salmon, lobster, shrimp or any other fancy salad. Delicious sandwiches are made of chicken and tongue minced mixed and combined with a *mayonnaise* to form a spreading paste. Small rolls may also be split and buttered and arranged with the sandwiches; and four plates of fancy cakes and macaroons should be added. On a side table should be a boned turkey; or if in winter creamed or scalloped oysters. In summer chicken croquets and timbales of chicken or halibut are substituted for the shell fish, and fresh fruits are used in place of candied ones. Creams and ices, always present, should be served from a cool side room. The above list is a simple menu but one always appropriate, and one that may be elaborated by the addition of any favorite dish such as terrapin, soft-shell crabs, game, etc.

The removal of gloves while partaking of refreshments is a matter of taste.

The bride cuts the wedding cake after the substantial refreshments have been discussed, but after separating a slice the cake is removed, and the cutting completed by a servant, who passes it to the guests. No matter what one's private convictions regarding the qualities of wedding cake as an edible may be, it is expected that each person will take a piece and eat, at least a crumb. The drinking of healths, if observed at all, is much abbreviated, and quite often is altogether omitted.

If a toast is offered the bride at the wedding breakfast, a smile and bow from her are all the response necessary. Congratulations are only offered to the groom, the bride being wished all happiness instead.

The withdrawal of the bride, attended by the maid of honor, or by the first bridesmaid, or, if there are no maids by a sister or intimate friend, to change her toilette for traveling dress follows, and when she descends the staircase she is met at the foot by her bridesmaids, who form a pretty alley-way through which she passes and is joined by the groom. Good-byes are quickly said, as none but relations or intimite friends insist upon farewells; the carriage drives off and after it is thrown rice and old slippers. No one asks in what direction the newly wedded pair are going.

If the friends who remain do not immediately take their leave, which is not always practicable when they must await the departure of a train or other means of conveyance, they assist their hostess by accepting whatever amusements or means of entertainment she may have provided for them, by taking themselves to the lawn if it is summer-time or disposing of themselves in any way agreeable to her or them.

Bride's Cake.

Bride's-cake is a frosted white cake, and when a ring is baked in it it is distributed only among the maidens who assist at the wedding feast. This loaf does not, however, always contain the magic circlet which is the sign of a speedy wooing to her who finds it, but at nearly all weddings a handsome loaf of this description graces the table and is known as the bride's cake. The practice of searching for the ring fell out of favor, temporarily, when long gloves (which are not removed at stand-up feasts) came into fashion; but with other quaint and pleasing old customs, it has lately been revived and the merriment it affords is not out of keeping with the most formal festivities. Indeed, merriment is a recognized essential of a fashionable wedding. Tearful farewells and prolonged leave-taking are not indulged in by those who conform to the most approved standards of conduct upon such occasions. It is a pretty fancy, nurtured into a tradition in many families, that the bride makes this special loaf with her own hands.

Wedding Cake.

Wedding-cake is a dark and rich fruit cake. The bride usually makes the first incision in cutting it, as before mentioned, but after this the duty of cutting, at either reception or wedding breakfast, is assumed by the hostess, or, perhaps, is performed by a domestic. There is a legendary or mythical prejudice against anyone handing the bride a knife for the purpose. She avails herself of any knife lying near, but the one with which the subsequent cutting is done is thin and sharp, and not always an ornamental addition to a prettily spread table; hence the removal of the cake to a side table.

Each departing guest takes from the hall table as a souvenir of the wedding one of the boxes of wedding cake which should be arranged there. To take more than one box, unless asked by the hostess to convey one to a friend, is unpleasant evidence of very bad breeding. The boxes may have the monogram of the bride and groom printed in gold or silver upon the covers.

Old-Time Customs.

At a recent fashionable wedding the ceremony of cutting the bride's loaf was performed the night before, and was made the occasion of a festivity, participated in by the immediate wedding party only, maids of honor, bridesmaids, ushers and best man.

This is a revival of an old-time custom, which may be destined to run its course again in these days of a craze for resurrections.

The origin of the wedding loaf is to be found in an old English rite of sprinkling wheat over the head of the bride, as typical of the abundance and prosperity which were hoped for.

The first bride cakes were made of wheat, like bread, but gradually evolved into the elaborate and toothsome wedding cake of to-day.

When first used as a loaf this was broken over the head of the bride, and the pieces shared only by the near relatives and attendants of the newly married pair.

Congratulations.

No one *congratulates* a bride—that is, no one who is desirous of observing the proprieties. Congratulations are for the groom; to the bride one may express the hope that she will be very happy, but to congratulate her would seem to indicate a belief that her success in enticing the groom to her side was a fair mark for applause, and it is chivalric as well as delicate to consider the reverse the truth—indeed, no matter what we think, it is bad form to express any feeling contrary to that which leads us to wish all brides much happiness and heartily congratulate the grooms.

The Wedding Tour.

THE wedding tour is no longer an orthordox journey unless the bride and groom desire to adhere to old customs. It may be made and is made; but modern customs are threatening annihilation, and the happy pair may emancipate themselves from tradition and plan out a honeymoon that is ideal—something which a long wedding journey never was.

We here quote a bright article on the subject:

"The honeymoon idea is greatly changed since the days when the wedded lovers stole away to some secret retreat, using every known device to conceal their destination from their most intimate friends as well as to deceive every one they met on the way concerning the newness of their wedding vows. Now the fashionable metropolitan bride usually goes to some city hotel after her evening wedding to stay until the next day, if not longer, before she starts out on her wedding journey. The loyal friend who supports the husband during the trying ordeal in the capacity of "best man," and remembers all the things the husband is supposed to forget, secures the rooms at the hotel in advance, and possibly engages the accommodations on the train for the wedding journey.

Usually, however, the bride and her consort are left undisturbed by their friends, no matter how long they may remain in town, nor does any one appear at the station when they depart, though neither the time of starting nor the destination is concealed. One bride made a most original innovation by remaining at home, after a noon wedding to attend the Bachelors' ball in the evening and taking a train for Philadelphia at 3 o'clock in the morning. A very fashionable girl who married an Englishman returned in three days after the wedding to open her own house and to give out and receive invitations. As to the wedding tour, it is no longer deemed obligatory, and the English fashion of retiring for a short time to some country place is growing here in America. It seems incongruous with the American girl's ideas of good taste to read of the going-away gowns of English brides, which are of pure white if the lady has royal antecedents, or of all sorts of light and fanciful materials, pale gray with white trimmings or blue with fur and passementerie. For the American bride always chooses for this going-away gown the most quiet and genteel of colors, and not infrequently the clever bride elect wears the gown just enough to take off the look of painful and embarrassing newness. But it must be remembered that the wedding journey of the English bride is usually a carriage journey, or at most a railway journey of a few hours in the compartment of a first-class carriage. Its destination is to some country house which a friend places at their disposal for a couple of weeks, where well-trained servants are sent on ahead to prepare everything for the comfort of the lovers, and where the cold and cruel world does not intrude. An English bride would never dream of attempting a sea voyage or of scurrying across a continent sightseeing for a wedding journey. And indeed there is wisdom in this, for traveling is rather trying to one's nerves and temper, and decidedly demoralizing to one's personal appearance. Of course a cinder more or less on one's face, a dismally straightened out bang, ought not to alienate a man's affections from the woman he has taken for better or for worse, but it is a kind of a shock to have the worse tried on him so soon and when he isn't really prepared for it.

An American bride who tried the English honeymoon plan claims that it is most delightful. It was at a New England farmhouse situated in a little town of scarcely three hundred inhabitants, and so early in the season that the ubiquitous summer visitor had not arrived, that this bride and groom realized the possibilities of the English experiment. Maids and men were sent on a week in advance, and horses and carriages as well. Meals were movable feasts and subject to the whim of the lovers. If they forgot them entirely, driving about the country roads where the apple trees showered their white petals as they passed, no unsympathetic mundane being cavilled. This same

happy bride advises all girls who marry business men to choose the early summer for the wedding, even if they must, as she did, defy all superstitious precedent by being married in the unlucky month of May. For in summer a man's business cares relax, his working hours are shorter. He may take frequent little trips besides the one which follows the wedding. While the winter bride, with a busy husband, is left much to her own resources, which are few just at first, when her wardrobe is in perfect order and there is little to buy or make, or mend, and few cares as yet to occupy her mind. Indeed, one wife whose wedding ring was dated several years ago, acknowledges now that the honeymoon days were not all that fancy paints them to her simply because she had nothing to do. She had no sewing to attend to, no fancy work unfinished, not even a book to read in the trunk in which she had packed her wedding trousseau. With her husband at business through the day and herself alone in a hotel in a strange city, the honeymoon days until the furniture for the home was sent on were not at all the festivals of hilarity she had expected; and her advice to the bride in ordinary circumstances and not in the social swim, where all her time is absorbed in society, is to leave some of the pretty finery unfinished, some of the housekeeping things unmade, to occupy her in the first homesick days of the new life in a strange town.

Another married woman, speaking from the memory of her own experience, advises that the wedding journey be taken six months or even a year after the wedding, and the best thing for the newly married is to take themselves and their new happiness into a little home of their own. The wedding journey made before the home is settled is too full of anticipation and plans for the home to be really enjoyed and appreciated. Married honors are so new, like the bridal dresses, to be flaunted in the face of an unfeeling world. But after the home is settled and everybody has called and seen, after the agonies of the first dinners with ices that didn't come and finger bowls that were forgotten have been lived through, after everything settles down to the humdrum and monotonous, and even to have a husband isn't, as the second Mrs. Tanqueray says, such a great thing where everybody has husbands, then the wedding journey is a delight to both husband and wife.

Still it is interesting to listen to the young girl's ideal of the wedding journey, for ideals are such pretty things until they come in contact with reality and get their wings clipped. If the girl does leave the husband all out of her scheme, to the amusement of the married women, there is a sweet piquancy in her very ingenuousness. There are any quantity of girls who long to go to Europe for the wedding journey. Most of those who go are not particularly enthusiastic about advising others to do the same. Indeed, one unfortunate bride and bridegroom who went were both seasick before they were out of sight of Liberty, and only recovered from their *mal de mer* in time to leave the steamer on the other side. That bride says she can appreciate the delights of the wedding journey which the bridegroom took alone because there wasn't enough money for both to go, and confessed that she would never have believed that the absence of the man she loved could have been so desirable as on that ocean voyage.

There is the story, too, of the lovers who had been surrounded by so many interested friends and relatives during their courting that they never saw each other alone at all, and went with anticipations of great delight to a shooting box in the country, remote from any habitation. Three days of this isolation almost convinced them that marriage was indeed a failure, and it was only their precipitous return to the ant hill of relatives, where the tête-à-têtes were again frequently disturbed, that preserved the marriage bond intact.

The destination of the wedding journey varies greatly now from that chosen by brides twenty-five years ago. Then it was the proper thing to go to Niagara Falls, and two-thirds of the brides went there. One of these wives, who is now busy preparing a trousseau for her daughter, said she would never forget how the pitiless fury of the waters impressed her, and that a worse place to take a girl inclined to be homesick could not be well imagined. Of course the country bride in humble circumstances does just as her mother did before her—goes off on a visit to her husband's relations, or takes him on a visit to her relatives, or both. The village bride with a prosperous husband usually comes here to New York and goes to the Eden Musée, to the realistic country plays of the "Old Homestead" school, wanders through the Metropolitan Museum, does the Bridge and the City Hall and the statue of Liberty, and goes home half glad it is all over, but never owning that she had anything but a perfectly glorious time. Winter brides in the city are inclined to travel southward to Washington or Old Point Comfort or Florida.

Long and fatiguing wedding journeys are certainly gradually going out of fashion, and even in this age of unromantic marriages the custom of a quiet honeymoon in some secluded place is growing in favor even though it may result, as one bride confesses to have experienced, in finding out how unlike in tastes and sympathies are these wearers of the yoke matrimonial. To quote her rather pathetic words: "My husband courted me eight years, and we thought we were exactly alike in everything—perfectly in accord in all our sympathies. It took only eight days of honeymoon to find out that we were unlike in everything, and didn't care for the same things at all."

A Springtime Wedding.

ALL in all, I think it was the prettiest wedding I ever attended; and as—

"In the Spring a young man's fancy
Lightly turns to thoughts of love."

and it is possible that a young woman's fancy may turn in the same direction, perhaps I cannot do better for the edification of my fair young readers than describe the event as I witnessed it.

One morning at table, when one of us quoted the above lines, John, who is a hopeless and crusty old bachelor, remarked that woman's fancy seemed to turn in the direction of love at all times of the year, irrespective of season: if it wasn't love of self, it veered only sufficiently to include new dresses and hats.

Beth, who is not easily subdued and can uphold her sex with considerable valor, neatly retorted that woman's fancy had certainly never seemed to veer in *his* direction.

However, this has nothing to do with the wedding which I started to describe. In the first place, strange to relate, everybody said it was a most suitable match in every respect, and this in itself seemed a highly propitious omen for two young people about to embark upon the somewhat uncertain sea of matrimony.

The groom-elect was handsome, the bride-elect was fair, and both were young and of good family and breeding, and were possessed of sufficient means to dispense with the drudgeries of life. I think everybody was sincerely glad that two such worthy young people were to plight their troth.

Both were popular in society, and consequently a goodly number of invitations were sent out. The Wellington mansion, in which the wedding was to take place, was a spacious, old-fashioned Kentucky home, with high ceilings, immense double parlors and wide halls; so that it really took a large number of people to fill the rooms comfortably and give them a festive air.

The wedding took place in the evening, and the full dress of the guests imparted additional brilliancy to the scene. Apple blossoms supplied the key-note of the decorations. I am a little weak on this point, I fear. Last Spring, during the time of apple-blossoms, I used to walk a mile daily that I might feast my eyes on a great, gnarled apple tree that was one mass of fragrant blooms from top to bottom, and musical throughout the day with the hum of industrious bees.

Indeed, I don't think Nature ever did a more exquisite thing than when she fashioned a spray of apple blossoms—I mean the old-time cluster of buds and blossoms whose curled petals are dashed with a vivid red that fades into the exquisite pink of a sea-shell, and whose heart is a storehouse of honeyed perfume. Some of the latter varieties doubtless produce finer fruit, but it seems to me that their blossoms lack the beauty and sweetness of the old-fashioned sort.

The moment the guests stepped into the long, wide hall of the Wellington mansion, they were greeted by the daintiness and fragrance of apple blossoms. Great clusters of branches were fastened to the walls, while festoons of pink and white gauze hung gracefully from one bunch to another. The stair-rail was wreathed with green garlands and sprays of apple blossoms, and tall, quaint jars holding flowering branches that looked almost like small trees were placed here and there about the hall.

Pretty as this scene was, however, the parlors presented a far lovelier aspect. The carpets were covered with white crash, the walls were hung with a delicate figured paper showing white and gold on a background that looked like old ivory, and the wood-work was also in white and gold, so that the garlands and festoons of simlax and apple blossoms that wreathed the doorways and window frames and adorned the walls stood forth in beautiful contrast. I had never before seen smilax and apple blossoms associated, and one has to see the combination to fully appreciate the exquisite effect produced by the clusters of delicate blossoms and buds twined with the fragile, graceful smilax.

The rear parlor, which was reserved for the ceremony, was a scene of beauty long to be retained in one's memory. A large mirror filled the space between the two windows, and in front of it a tent-like canopy formed of ropes of smilax and apple blossoms depended from the ceiling. Beneath the canopy was a narrow, slightly raised platform, and at the two front corners were pedestals twined with pink satin and supporting gilded baskets heaped with apple blooms.

Between the two pedestals at the front edge of the platform was a low trellis of gilded wire entwined with smilax, and on the floor before the trellis were two pink satin cushions trimmed with white silken cord and tassels. A little to the right and left of the cushions were two tall gilded pedestals terminating in branching candelabra, which held candles under pink and white shades. The candles, together with the central chandelier, which was also twined with smilax and apple blooms, provided a mellow light that was very effective.

A wide frieze around the rooms was made of bands of pink and white China silk looped with ropes of smilax and apple blossoms, and from the four corners of each room were draped bands of the silk that converged above the chandelier.

Across the mantel mirrors were laid graceful apple boughs, among whose twigs a number of birds' nests were cunningly placed. The nests were all last year's, so that no feathered songster was bereft of a home to furnish the suggestive ornaments.

The arch between the two parlors was beautifully decorated, the white fluted pillars being twined with smilax and apple blossoms, while a rope of the same was stretched across the opening, excluding the guests from the back parlor. In the center of the arch hung the monogram of the young couple done in gold.

The orchestra was stationed in the rear of the hall near the back parlor door, behind a screen of foliage; and, for a wonder, they did not play Mendelssohn's wedding march, but some sweet rustic-sounding melody—perhaps the Swedish wedding march, which was well suited to the Spring-like surroundings. The instruments seemed to be mostly flutes, and their bird-like trills and warblings made one almost fancy that a chorus of joyous birds were hidden among the fragrant, blossoming boughs that abounded on every hand.

The music began very softly, and then swelled to louder tones as the bridal procession entered. First came the minister in his clerical robes, then the five bridesmaids, and next two pretty little cousins of the bride, charmingly dressed in quaint costumes, and carrying gilded baskets from which they scattered Spring blossoms before the coming bride and groom.

The happy couple were dressed in the orthodox style. Instead of the regulation bridal bouquet, however, the bride carried a few branches of exquisite apple blossoms, and she wore a spray or two of the same sweet flowers in her hair.

The bridesmaids were permitted more originality in their dressing, and availed themselves of the liberty with flattering success. The first one personated Spring, wearing a pale sky-blue gown adorned with delicate green foliage and numerous small bunches of fragrant violets. No less attractive were the others—one in pale-pink decorated with peach blossoms; another in yellow trimmed with primroses; a third in pale-green, with cherry blossoms for ornament; and the fourth in white, with lilies-of-the-valley. Each maid carried flowers to accord with her costume. The tableau as the bridal party grouped about the altar was certainly a very beautiful and artistic one.

After the ceremony had been performed and congratulations offered, and all had registered, the bridal party led the way to the supper room, where another pretty sight awaited the guests. This room had been transformed into a sort of tent of pink and white bunting, decorated with wreaths of greenery caught up by bunches of Spring blossoms.

A large central round table was encircled by smaller ones. The bridal party sat at the large table, which was truly a thing of beauty. A round, shallow basin of water formed a limpid pool, in which gold-fish sported lazily above a bed of pebbles. In the center of this pool played a tiny fountain, and a bank of the greenest moss bordered the outer rim. The moss was liberally sprinkled with sweet white violets and lilies-of-the-valley and was edged with a band of smilax and apple blossoms. A border of pink satin edged with lace was arranged at the outer rim of the table, and upon it were laid the plates of the bridal party.

The smaller tables were prettily decorated with odorous Spring flowers—in fact, on every side one saw dainty evidences that the sweet vernal season had come.

The menu was in perfect keeping with the decoration, being delicious in quality and beautifully served. White, green and pink were the prevailing colors in the different courses. I remember the ices were colored and moulded to imitate various fruits, such as strawberries, apples, apricots, peaches, pears, etc.

"I declare," said I on my way home, "that was such a pretty wedding, I am half tempted to say yes to the very next woman who proposes."

"You may safely say that," retorted Beth, "and yet die a bachelor at a ripe old age."

"Don't judge women by the experience you have had with man's proposing," I replied; for, bless your heart! Beth is no Spring blossom, herself. Beth and I are always exchanging these little pleasantries.

"Well," said I, after a short silence, "wasn't it about the prettiest wedding you ever saw?"

"Yes, it was," she admitted; but, dear me, I'm afraid the apple crop will be rather short in this section of the country," she added with a little sigh.

Beth is nothing if not practical.

Giving and Acknowledging Wedding Presents.

A wedding present should be sent to the bride at least a day before the wedding. The giver's card should, of course, be enclosed. It is customary for the bride to make the groom a present.

It would be very discourteous for a bride to omit acknowledging any gifts sent to her, whether by near or distant friends. It is customary to make such acknowledgment within a short time after the wedding, but the exact period permitted is governed by circumstances. A bride who leaves on an extended wedding tour soon after the marriage ceremony is performed, would be quite excusable in deferring the acknowledgment of gifts received within a day or two of her marriage until after her return; though, if she were to be absent over a month, it would be quite proper for her mother or sister to perform this courtesy for her. There is no precise formula for such a note. Her own good taste and judgment should guide her. Such a note may, however, read as follows:

"*Dear Mrs. Hall:—*

"*Please accept my sincere thanks for the beautiful gift you so kindly sent me. I shall appreciate it not only for its worth, but also for the loving thought which prompted it.*"

If the acknowledgment has been delayed beyond a reasonable time, the reason for the delay may be mentioned briefly.

Wedding gifts are no longer displayed to the guests in general. They are usually placed in an upper room of the bride's house, and a few intimate friends are invited the day before the wedding to see them.

Any person invited to a wedding may send the bride a present, but unless the invited guest is a warm friend of the bride, a gift is not in the best taste. The giving of presents by those who are only ordinary acquaintances of the bride is often considered ostentatious and obtrusive.

The Art of Giving, and What to Give.

That a gift is or should be a free-will offering may be assumed without fear of contradiction, and from this simple fact are deduced the laws which govern the most refined and acceptable observances in the matter of gift-giving. The feeling which prompts us to bestow upon our friends tokens of our love or appreciation is a most creditable and kindly one, and when some special occasion presents the opportunity for gratifying it, who would willingly relinquish the pleasure which the privilege confers? In the answer lies the cause of almost every doubt and query which disturb many people whose means are inadequate to their desires. The impulse to give overrules the circumstances which justify the giving, and eventually the receipt of an invitation to a wedding becomes, to them, the signal of a social obligation which can be sufficiently honored in no other way than by the presentation of a gift.

Such an interpretation, it is almost needless to say, is a perversion of a social custom originating in finer motives and more exalted sentiments than such a cumpulsory view implies.

When the subject of gift-giving comes up for consideration within a family connection the circumstances and known tastes of the recipient and means of the giver of course decide all questions. The immediate family of a bride may present her with any article of use or ornament, and the immediate connection of the man she is to marry may signify their pleasure or approval of her *entrée* into their family circle by the presentation of ornamental gifts at any time after her engagement has been made known to them. Articles of household use, such as napery, plate, etc., received from her own family, are marked with her own name, cipher or initials. Similar articles received from her husband's family, even if sent unmarked previous to the date of her wedding, are marked with the name, cipher or initials of the man she is to marry; or, if marked by the donor, may have the interlinked or combined initials, etc., of both bride and groom. Of course, the recipient may have the marking done so as to combine both names, but it would be bad taste to have this done upon gifts from those whose connection is with the groom, as in families where old plate is treasured the line of long descent through separate branches is thus established, and in presenting gifts to a bride there are many who are deterred by an old superstition from having the name that is to be hers engraved upon her belongings prior to the time when she assumes it.

More remote kindred are not debarred from sending gifts that combine both use and beauty in their attributes, but it is only to those who possess through family connections or close friendship an intimate knowledge of her means and future prospects that such a privilege is given. Outside of this circle there may be many friends who may wish to testify their regard by the presentatation of some article which may be simple or elegant, according to their means and inclination; and among them may be some who have no acquaintance with the bride, and who perhaps live at a distance.

What is a suitable gift and to whom shall we send it? they ask. Replying to the last question first, the general answer is, to the bride; it being presumed that your gift means that you are glad to welcome her as the choice of your friend, and that, because of your friendship for him, you entertain towards her the most kindly sentiments. If the gift follows a marriage announcement it may be sent to both, though it may quite as properly be sent to the bride, as if forwarded previous to her marriage.

Now, as to what constitutes a suitable present from a friend or acquaintance, the best advice that can be given must be purely suggestive and upon the donor's common sense the selection must depend. An etching or engraving, or anything in the way of a picture within one's means, a choice book, an odd specimen of carving, a vase or any similar article is suitable, and so are a great many other things which will suggest themselves to each and every one. Good taste is, however, offended when a personal present is sent to the groom because acquaintance exists with him only.

It is always proper for a lady to send to a bride specimens of her skill in embroidering, painting or doing any kind of fancy work, and such a gift is quite as suitable where one or other of the wedded pair is a stranger as when presented to an intimate friend. In sending any gift the donor encloses his or her card upon which a brief message of good-will may be written. If the gift is from a gentleman and wife the cards of both, or a single card engraved, Mr. and Mrs. John Blank (which is by some used for this purpose), is enclosed and the package is addressed to the bride. It is the bride who acknowledges the gift, though she need not do so until after her wedding day.

A present fashion, which deserves to become an established custom and doubtless will, is followed when several friends unite in the presentation of a gift composed of separate parts, each of which represents one of the donors. For instance, a gift of jewely composed of floral sprays, may be purchased by several cousins or friends who, having consulted each other, are not in danger of duplicating its component pieces. Such sets are now made in a way to permit of wearing the whole or part, according to the fancy of the wearer, and also of combining the separate pieces to form an effective jewelled garniture for an evening toilette. Even handsomely jewelled sets may thus be purchased by several friends without binding each one to a greater outlay than may be deemed expedient.

Among recent gifts to a bride whose large circle of friends bespeaks her lovable qualities, was a set of six stars heavily crusted with diamonds. The sizes are so graded that the six may be worn upon the bodice of an evening dress with superb effect, or one may be worn as a brooch with some of the others in the hair.

Less expensive sets in floral designs might be purchased, as this set was, by friends or relatives familiar with the recipient's tastes in the matter of jewelry.

It is not, however, in gifts of jewelry alone that this fashion of giving is practised. Indeed, it is especially favored by the diversity of useful and beautiful articles which are now included in the lists of those considered suitable for wedding gifts. Silver sets embodying the various pieces which are of use or ornament upon the dressing-case or toilet-table may be purchased by a bevy of girl friends and presented in their entirety; and no matter how many other pieces may follow or precede them such a gift is a gratifying one, this being an era when the desire to possess such articles in generous numbers is a marked feminine characteristic.

Quite as appropriate and more nearly within the means of the majority is a gift comprising a cushion, bureau-cover and chair-scarf presented to a recent bride. The cushion was covered with yellow satin and upon it was laid a dainty cover of bolting-cloth upon which a bunch of pansies was painted. The bureau-cover of bolting-cloth had pansies painted on the ends and was laid over a foundation of satin. For the chair-scarf silk, matching the satin in color, was used, and its correspondence to the other pieces was noticed in the decoration, which was partially composed of pansies in conventional designs. This gift, modest in the expenditure it involved and depending mostly on the exquisite taste and skill displayed in it has been described at considerable length, because its presentation in the instance referred to exemplifies the fine perception which constitutes the art of giving. The recipient was to begin her wedded life in a modest home. She had many friends who desired to send to her expressions of their sincere wishes for her wedded happiness. Among them were three bright young women to whom pretty gifts had often been displayed accompanied by the regretful admission "it is so pretty that it is a pity it does not match anything else," and they decided to conform their individual gifts to each other, so that each, without losing its especial value, should be made all the more valuable by its relation to the others. Their success was attested by the delicate harmony of the result. It is often a perplexing matter for the recipient to decide how to dispose of a gift without wounding the sensibilities of the giver. A rug, a cushion or some article of household adornment, which may be in itself very attractive, may be entirely incongruous to the other furnishings of a room, and no one should mention a possible disposal of a gift. Let the recipient place it wherever it harmonizes best with its surroundings. That it is not given a conspicuous position should not be construed to mean that it is not appreciated.

Negative counsel is rarely highly valued, but a little of it applies with special emphasis to the matter of gift-giving. Never send a gift in excess of your means, unless you are willing to have it understood that the standard of esteem between yourself and the recipient may be truthfully gauged by the market value of the article presented; and never apologize for the inexpensiveness of a gift. If it is as costly as your means permit, such excuses are vulgar in the extreme. If its value seems disproportionately small by comparison with what you might easily bestow, apologies only serve to rend the transparent veil which covers parsimony.

"What shall I give, who can only bestow good wishes and kind thoughts?" asks some one who would like to send a handsome gift to the fiancée of a friend, but who must deny herself the realization of many generous impulses. To such an one the answer is, bestow your good wishes and kind thoughts freely. Acknowledge your friends' invitation and write a pleasant note containing the expression of your wishes for their welfare, but in it never hint of the thought that a wedding present would be in order. To do so would be to give their invitation a mercenary motive and apparently lower the basis of mutual regard.

Gift-giving in its relations to the various other social occasions which suggest its consideration must always, according to its best interpretation, be looked upon as the privilege of friends, or at least as a sign of intended friendliness, rather than as a social tax levied through the medium of invitations. Those whose social principles are vitalized by the same source of high thinking which makes them worthy of emulation in all their acts, often omit from invitations to wedding anniversaries, birthday *fêtes* and similar celebrations all reference to the special cause of the celebration, limiting to those who are of their own family or within their inner circle of friends the privilege of signalizing it by making gifts.

If one feels free to respond to an invitation to a wedding anniversary by sending a gift, it should be presented to both husband and wife, as such invitations are of course issued in the name of both, and neither should be ignored.

The Weddings of Widows.

A widow who re-marries does not, if she scrupulously regards *les convenances*, wear a white wedding gown and never a veil; but some young widows have acted as a law unto themselves and assumed the attire of a young girl upon this occasion, minus the veil. In favor of their choice it is argued that without the veil the white gown of moiré or brocade was no more an assumption of the girl bride's attire than a similar dress would be at subsequent receptions, balls and parties. Despite the force of this reasoning it is considered better taste for even a young widow who re-marries to chose another tint for her wedding dress. If a widow has passed her youth, she should choose some delicate tint a shade or two removed from white, this she does not from any particular sentiment, but because tints are more becoming to a complexion that has lost its youthful charm. There is no social edict which forbids her having her second marriage as ceremoniously conducted as the first, but she does not often take advantage of the privilege, preferring a quiet wedding.

Duties of the Bride and Groom's Attendants.

THE MAID OF HONOR.

Of course a bride has her maid or maids of honor in her mind, if she intends to have them. almost as soon as she thinks of her wedding. It is in equally good form to ask one or two, but a single maid of honor is more common. A sister, large or small, is as often chosen for this pleasant service as a girl outside the family.

The maid of honor should be notified of the bride's preference as soon as the date of the marriage is settled. She stands nearest the bride during the ceremony, but, of course, back of her; she also holds the bride's bouquet and turns back the glove finger when it is time to place the ring. It is not now a part of her duty, as it was formerly, to turn back the veil, because the bride now walks out of the church with her wedding veil covering her face.

Her gown is usually more elegant than those of the bridesmaids and is generally made with a demi-train. It should be of some pretty pale tint, unless it is white, and should not be made so that its style will in any way detract from the beauty of the bride or her gown.

The maid of honor goes with the bride to her room to assist her in dressing for her wedding trip, and also casts the traditional slipper after the departing carriage.

She also assumes, during the absence of the bride any little duties in the way of visiting elderly or invalid friends or dependants that the bride may have been interested in, and any kindnesses the bride may have been unable to express, through lack of time, are carried out by the maid of honor.

Aside from the social customs laid down for a maid of honor, she will find many opportunities for extending little courtesies during her exaltation—courtesies which will cover many minor emergencies that will spring up amid the excitement and bustle of the merry wedding time. Her natural graciousness and tact will discover many needs that she can and will meet, thus relieving the bride.

THE BEST MAN.

The best man is generally selected from the groom's bachelor friends, though occasionally a married man is chosen. He is known or supposed to be the groom's most intimate friend, and is intrusted with all those details that should not be allowed to disturb or distract a groom on this most important occasion of his life.

The best man hands the groom's hat to him, presents the clergyman with his fee, and leaves by a side aisle to rejoin the party in the vestibule, where he makes himself as useful in speeding the chief actors in the ceremony as circumstances may demand. At the house he assists the ushers in presenting friends, helping such ladies to refreshments as are without escort, and administering the hospitalities, which for the time being are largely in the care of those who have been honored with a request to assist at the wedding, and which must include the most courteous recognition of one family by another. He sees to the transfer of baggage and the purchase of tickets, and is usually the last one to say adieu at the station from which the bride and groom start upon their honeymoon trip. We have been asked to define his duties. Those which he is usually called upon to perform have been enumerated, but as he is generally the trusted friend of the groom and is in his confidence to the extent of knowing the objective point of the wedding journey, the arduous duty of keeping this a secret is also laid upon him. His duties, however, are only such as the groom deputes to him and are not to be confounded with those arrangements which properly rest upon the bride's family.

The question, "Who attends the maid of honor when the bridal procession comprises only her and the best man, the bride and groom, and all enter together from the vestibule?" has been asked. When this arrangement has been decided upon, it is correct for the best man to offer his arm to the maid of honor, even though it may seem that in so doing he is establishing a new order of duties for himself and his followers. While it is true that his services are more frequently limited to attendance upon the groom, still his selection as best man compliments him with the implied belief that he can be relied upon to do whatever is agreeable to those who are most interested. Timid brides who prefer to be married in church, but who do not wish to form part of a procession composed of ushers and bridesmaids, and who, perhaps, have no near relatives to give them away, yet

desire the immediate presence of a girl friend, often approach the altar in this simple fashion, which, when the home that is being left (and, perhaps, the one that is yet to be made) is a simple one, is much more commendable than any attempt at a conspicuous *cortége.*

THE BRIDESMAIDS.

A bridesmaid, having accepted the honor, should spare neither effort nor expense to please the bride and add to the beauty of the occasion. She should consult the bride as to the gown she would like her to wear, and as no bride would be inconsiderate in the matter of expense, the bridesmaid should comply fully with the bride's wishes. The bride often asks her bridesmaids to agree among themselves as to the toilets that will be most pleasing. The matter of dress for bridesmaids is fully discussed under the heading of "Proper Attire for Weddings." The bridesmaids may assemble at the church, but it is more usual and convenient to have them proceed to the home of the bride and go from there to the church, their carriages starting a little earlier than the bride's, so as to insure their being at the portal to receive her. They usually remain in their carriages until the bride's carriage arrives, so as to avoid a long delay in the vestibule. When there is only one maid, she is called the maid of honor, though often when a number of bridesmaids assist, there is, in addition, a maid of honor. At the reception following the ceremony, the bridesmaids, after the first half hour or so, see that the guests are properly entertained even though they are strangers to them, and escort them to the refreshment room unless the repast is a formal breakfast, in which event the bride's mother or the hostess attends to this part of the entertainment. They are expected to make themselves generally agreeable and remain until after the departure of the bride and groom, grouping themselves in the hall or about the entrance and waving their good will and best wishes after the departing bride. Sometimes a little dance, as a reward for their efforts is arranged to follow the departure of the couple.

When distance will permit, bridesmaids should call upon the mother of the bride within a day or two after the wedding. It is a delicate courtesy for the maids, one or more daily, to pay little calls of this kind during the absence of the bride, and more than that this attention is made almost obligatory by the tenets of good form.

THE USHERS.

The duties of the ushers are complex, yet easily performed if directed by a competent head usher, who takes upon himself the duty of apportioning and indicating a sufficient space for near relatives. He sees that the organist is in his place, indicates when the bridal party is approaching, and instructs the other ushers in the details as they have been arranged by him. Lists of guests and relatives and the order of their precedence are given him some days before the wedding in order that he may seat the guests properly. At the proper hour they call at the bride's residence for final orders and she fastens the wedding favor of white blossoms upon their coat lapels. They go to the church half an hour before the ceremony to see that everything is properly arranged. If guests unknown to the usher present themselves he ascertains their names, and by reference to the list or memory seats them properly. He offers his arm to each woman, and the man who may accompany her follows and seats himself by her side. The space outside the white ribbon, described below, is for any guests not immediate friends of the family.

The ushers, who for a day wedding wear light-colord gloves, frock coat and light trousers, bring in the guests, relatives and intimate friends being conducted to the front seats, which are marked off by a white ribbon. The usher gives his left arm to the lady he is to escort, and the gentleman who accompanies her follows them to the seat. Friends of the groom are seated on the right, those of the bride on the left of the main aisle or centre. It is considered proper for an usher to ask those whose relationship he does not know whether they are connected with the bride or with the groom. Half of the ushers may leave the church as speedily as possible after the ceremony in order to assume their duties at the house, while the remainder attend to the last details at the church. At the house ushers offer their arms to the women who are the nearest relatives of the bride and escorting them to the newly wedded pair present them, using the bride's newly wedded title for the first time. Then if the bride desires it the usher introduces the guests to her father and mother and also to the groom's parents. As each woman takes the usher's arm the man with her walks by her side or follows her. The duties of ushers and bridesmaids, at receptions are very similar, each rendering all the service possible in making the guests comfortable. Ushers should call upon the bride's mother within a week. If distance or circumstances prevent, a note of thanks and inquiry will be in perfectly good form.

Pages.

PAGES add much to the effect of a wedding group at the altar. Two little fellows are usually dressed as court pages and walk behind the bride bearing the tips of her train in their hands. Their two costumes may be uniform or unlike, and are generally of red, green or blue velvet with white knee breeches of satin and white silk hose. Sometimes garters with buckles are worn, and lace shoes with buckles to match. When hats are worn they are of velvet, each with a white plume and a buckle. They are removed on entering the church, and as the bride kneels the pages lay down her train. At the close of the ceremony, one standing at each side of the aisle, they deftly lift the train again and carry it out of church.

These little pages must be well trained and it is essential that they be present at the last rehearsal. They must be chosen on their reputations for good manners and perfect obedience, and the choice should fall upon those who can be trusted to bear themselves sedately through the ceremony. Many little lads have been so well trained in general deportment that their manly bearing and courtly manners are equal to those of their elders; and their childish dignity lends much to the impressiveness of the occasion.

The Groom's Dinner.

Two or three evenings, perhaps a week before his marriage, the groom usually gives, at his club or at some hotel or restaurant, a dinner to his best man, ushers and sometimes a few other friends. Sometimes the clergyman who is to officiate at the wedding is invited, but for very patent reasons usually declines.

This dinner is not a social obligation but has come to be regarded as a pleasant custom as well as an agreeable opportunity for the groom to make the acquaintance of his ushers, should he be a stranger in the city where he is to be wed. The privilege of selecting the ushers being the bride's, it may be that the grooms residence in another part of the country has prevented him from ever having met them. Even living in the same city he may be but slightly acquainted with them.

When there are to be six ushers, they, with the groom and best man will form a pleasant and congenial group. More guests will make the dinner less intimate and lessen the friendly interchange of happy memories and future hopes. Eight is considered an ideal number for any dinner.

The Marriage Certificate.

One pretty new custom, or rather an old one revived, has been introduced in the modern wedding copied from the English idea of signing the wedding register, which is rarely done in this country. A beautifully illuminated and engrossed marriage certificate is ordered by the contracting parties, which consists of a large folio of vellum, white or as near white as it can be prepared. On the outer page is engrossed the regular form of the marriage certificate in delicately painted letters, set in scrolls of orange blossoms and forget-me-nots and true lovers' knots. The letters are in silver or gold. On the inner page is space for the registry of the names of the guests assembled at the wedding. This certificate is bound in vellum or white velvet, ornamented with solid silver corners and scrolls, or it is rolled on a solid silver roller, to which it is attached, and enclosed in a solid silver case, richly chased and ornamented. The cheapest of these engrossed certificates costs a bridegroom from $25 to $50. The more elaborate ones often amount to $100 or even $150, while the case will

approximate $60 or $75. Occasionally the engrossed certificate is framed in a narrow silver frame; but that is for the sake of preservation only, for the marriage certificate is not now considered an appropriate picture for hanging on the wall—a custom which prevails to a considerable extent in rural districts.

Another form of wedding certificate very much in favor with brides at present is to have the precious document bound into the white prayer-book so many brides carry now instead of the bouquet. The prayer-book may be of vellum, of ivory, or of white suede, leather or velvet. It is richly clasped and ornamented with silver, sometimes the whole book being covered with silver cut-work. If the clergyman be a friend of the family his offering usually takes this form. In other cases he uses the common engraved certificate, and the best man incorporates among his duties that of seeing that the certificate receives its proper signatures.

Miscellaneous Suggestions.

There are seldom good reasons for keeping a marriage secret, and to do so is ill-advised for obvious reasons. Besides, such a marriage is very bad form. Occasionally circumstances arise where a marriage is made with but few witnesses, and such hasty nuptials are often justifiable. An engaged man may be called upon very unexpectedly to leave for some distant country and may desire to take his bride with him; immediate marriage with an invalid to acquire the rights of a husband or wife to care for the patient; a death in the family or some kindred reason all warrant hasty marriages, but the latter should not be secret. Intimate friends should first be told, and the wedding announcement should follow within a fortnight. The parents or guardians of the bride should send out these announcements, thus implying approval.

Friends of the bridal party wearing mourning do not appear prominently among the wedding guests. Mourning robes are laid aside during a wedding reception if the invitation is accepted.

After a church ceremony the white ribbon which separates the seats is removed and the bridal party face the assemblage, either to receive the congratulations of the families, conducted to the happy pair by the ushers, or to pass out of the church to the reception given at the bride's house.

In leaving the altar the nearest relatives follow next after the bridesmaids, the latter following the maid of honor, who is sometimes attended by the best man, whose place is always next the bride except when the latter has pages to bear her train, when, of course, the maid follows behind them. The ushers precede the bride. Sometimes the best man leaves the church through the vestry in order to be of any service needed as the bridal party leaves the church.

In leaving for the church, the first to go is the family, except the bride's father and mother. The bridesmaids go next, and the maid of honor follows with either one or the other of the parents. The bride goes last with the other parent.

While the bridal party are grouping themselves preparatory to entering, the mother is escorted to her seat next the altar by some relative or friend or by a son if she has one. When there is no best man or maid of honor, the mother of the bride leaning upon the arm of the groom enters first, followed by the bride on her father's arm.

A bride generally gives her bridesmaides their gloves and usually presents each with some little souvenir of the wedding.

The bridegroom also usually gives each bridesmaid a piece of jewelry in which his and the bride's initials are combined. He also presents the best man and ushers with their gloves, ties, and very often with their scarf-pins.

Custom has recently made it proper for the bridegroom to wear a gardenia in his button-hole, the best man an orchid, and the ushers bouquets either of white violets, or some other small flower.

Wedding Anniversaries.

Who settled the naming of the anniversaries of the wedding-day is not known. They have, however, been recognized by the following titles for many years and are variously celebrated:

One year, Cotton Wedding.
Two years, Paper Wedding.
Three years, Leather Wedding.
Five years. Wooden Wedding.
Seven years, Woolen Wedding.
Ten years, Tin Wedding.
Twelve years, Silk or Linen Wedding.
Fifteen years, Crystal Wedding.
Twenty years, China Wedding.
Twenty-five years. Silver Wedding.
Thirty years, Pearl Wedding.
Forty years. Ruby Wedding.
Fifty years, Golden Wedding.
Seventy-five years, Diamond Wedding.

The first five or six wedding anniversaries are apt to be seasons of delightful frolic for all invited. Usually no sorrow has come to the home and all goes happy as the first marriage bell. The bride and groom are in the heyday of life, and the woman of thirty or thirty-five finds nothing sad in the fact that, while she is not so slender, she is even lovelier in her matronly beauty than on her wedding day.

The epoch which is marked off by twenty-five years of wedded life is especially honored by being named the silver wedding, while the lapse of another quarter of a century brings the golden wedding, and still another quarter the diamond wedding. Formal invitations to a silver wedding are usually printed in silver and to a golden wedding in gold upon heavy note-sheets, and frequently the initials of the lady's maiden and marriage names are combined in an embossed monogram at the top of the page between the dates of her marriage and its anniversary celebration. Very often these are the only features which distinguish them from invitations to other receptions, the wording being the same, though the golden wedding, being less usual, is noted by a more impressive formula, which "requests the pleasure of your company," the names of the bride and groom being frequently printed a line below at opposite sides of the page. While such invitations may be, and are, varied in many ways, such divergences as personal taste directs, are more frequently in the direction of removing than adding formality. The following is a very good form of invitation:

1868. 1893.

Mr. and Mrs. Walters
request the pleasure of your company
on Wednesday, December tenth, at eight o'clock.
Silver Wedding.

James Walters. *Alice Jones.*
22 *Morris Avenue.*

At a silver wedding, host and hostess are, during the time of receiving their guests, bride and groom, and congratulations are offered them beneath a floral wedding bell, an umbrella or canopy, and afterward they leave their station and go about among their guests. Usually the celebration is regulated entirely after the manner of an evening party. Host and hostess take places in the opening quadrille, and also lead the way to supper. This is usually found more practicable than the attempt to duplicate the original wedding festivities, which may have taken place in the morning.

The groom wears evening dress. The bride may be as elaborately costumed as her fancy directs, but there is a prejudice against her being gowned in black, though beautiful combinations of black lace over a bright or delicate tint are not suggestive of the ominous thought of opaque black if worn at such times. Silver gray is much admired both for its harmonious sound and its beautiful effect. By common consent pure white is left to the young bride, though some article which was conspicuous in the toilette of twenty-five years back is always displayed as a souvenir, and the bouquet is of blossoms similar to those carried to the altar. Of course, as many as possible of the friends who assisted at the first ceremony are present at the anniversary.

Gifts from near friends and relatives are in order, but so deeply rooted is the distaste of refined people for making such occasions the opportunity for display or a draft upon the generosity of acquaintances, that many invitations bear in the left-hand corner the words "no gifts received." Privileged friends may send gifts of silver in any form, but the lattitude allowed in choosing silver wedding presents often takes the choice almost if not entirely out of the realm of silver. However, as silver is every day extending its sway and the number of useful and beautiful articles that are fashioned out of it is all the time increasing in beauty and variety, one may indulge in the fancy for selecting some articles of silver, without being compelled to choose something which can only be purchased by a large outlay of money.

In replying to an invitation to a silver wedding, it is quite proper to offer congratulations to those who thus announce a quarter of a century of happy wedlock. A brief and comprehensive formula is

> *Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wray accept with pleasure Mr. and Mrs. William King's kind invitation for Friday evening, October tenth, and present to them their warmest congratulations on their Silver Wedding Anniversary.*
>
> 8 *Willow Street.*
>
> *Wednesday.*

Very particular people sometimes omit all reference to the occasion in their invitations to a silver wedding, which are thus reduced to the formula for an ordinary "at home," leaving the significance to be expressed by the arrangements or intimated by those of their friends who are in the secret. A feature of the table appointments is usually a beautifully frosted cake, upon which the monogram of the couple and the dates of the marriage and the wedding anniversary are conspicuously displayed.

Golden wedding anniversaries are not frequent, and even when both of those who joined hands fifty years before are living, they are not always observed with merry-making. The invitations to a golden wedding differ from those to a silver wedding only in being printed in gold and in the greater lapse of time indicated by the dates at the top of the engraved page. The decorations of the rooms are such as suggest the fulness of life. Evergreens, autumn leaves, clematis vine, ripened wheat in small sheaves or in a pendant bell, and all sorts of brilliant foliage are suitable; but blossoms should not be banished, though they need not appear in such profusion as when their aid is invoked for the young bride or the happy wife of twenty-five years.

It is proper that the aged couple receive their friends sitting, because if their family connections are numerous or their journey through life has been such as to draw many people about them, the renewal of associations is apt to be fatiguing. Serene, happy old age takes note of the inclinations of its grand-children, and quite as often as at the silver-wedding festivities young people are afforded an opportunity for merry-making. Memory calls up instances in which the belle and beau of half a century back have led a stately quadrille upon their golden anniversary, and at one of these celebrations a grand-daughter, who was the namesake of her grandmother, was attired in the wedding gown of her ancestress.

Fanciful divisions of the years into shorter epochs than marks the silver, golden or diamond weddings are frequently accepted as occasions for merry-making. Of these the wooden, tin, and crystal weddings are those most commonly observed. Other anniversaries, also described in the following pages, are occasions not neglected by the lovers of merriment. The invitations to these souvenir entertainments are sometimes suggestive of the occasion, but a tendency toward vulgarizing the harmless suggestion of mirth that was intended to be thus conveyed has decided many people, who are inclined to call their friends about them on such occasions, to issue their invitations, whether formal or informal, without reference to an anniversary. Their own family may understand its special significance and may be as munificent as they desire in their recognition of it, but no one else is supposed to feel called upon, even though they may not be forgetful of its import, to respond in any way, save that suggested by the invitation. This is a much more refined practice than that of suggesting the special fitness of certain articles as gifts, because the reason of these frequent divisions into years of the estate of matrimony is founded only in fancy, and until time dignifies them they are not counted of special importance. Occasions for mirth and rejoicing they may assuredly be, and those who have the right to comprehend fully the circumstances which govern them may take advantage of their privilege to realize the pleasure of gift-giving.

A repetition of the marriage ceremony on a wedding anniversary is in very poor taste, and a thoughtful clergyman would never permit it, as religion is thus made a mockery of, and that, too, in the ceremony that, of all others, should be held most sacred. A second solemnization can never mean anything, and the influence of such frivolity could not but be disastrous.

A Cotton Wedding.

IT came about in a very amusing manner, this cotton wedding of which I am going to write; and, perhaps, the way to describe it will be to begin at the beginning, as the children say.

Mr. and Mrs. Lambeth were newly wedded folks. I do not mean by this that the rice still lingered in his hat-band, or that the brand-new appearance of her apparel still suggested the *trousseau*, but simply that they were a young couple who had lately gone to housekeeping in a sensible, modest way, and that the question of cooks and "help" in general had as yet no especial terrors for them. In short, they were still in that *couleur de rose* state of married existence in which the ordinary cares and vexations of life seem to be of little moment, being looked upon rather as divertisements than as annoyances. Housekeeping was yet regarded as play, and they were enjoying the novelty to the fullest extent.

On a certain evening they were both dressed with unusual care to receive a few friends who had been invited to take a cup of tea with them. The maid-of-all-work had been sent to procure certain edibles needed for the refreshment of the expected guests, and Mrs. Lambeth was in the kitchen "seeing to things" during the servant's absence.

As Mr. Lambeth afterward remarked, she saw to things just a little too well on this occasion, for she chanced to observe a large glass jar of canned apples which the servant had brought from the pantry that afternoon in order to cook them over the next morning, as they were beginning to "work." Now Mrs. Lambeth prided herself on never putting off until to-morrow what can possibly be done to-day, and at once her housewifely thrift suggested that it would be better to empty the apples into a porcelain kettle and cook them while there was a good fire in the range, than to wait until the next morning, when things would be in more or less confusion and there would be a great deal of extra work to do. So she attempted to unscrew the cover of the jar, but finding it so firmly fixed as to resist her efforts, she called her husband to her aid.

"My dear," she said, "would you mind taking off the lid of this jar for me? Mary says the fruit needs to be cooked over because it's working."

"Perhaps it's ashamed to be idle when there is such a busy little housewife about," responded Mr. Lambeth gallantly as he came to her assistance.

The cover proved stubborn even under his superior strength, and after several vigorous attempts, he acknowledged himself foiled. Then Mrs. Lambeth bethought herself of a wrench that had been furnished with the jars for unscrewing the lids, and she immediately hunted it up and gave it to her spouse.

"Ah, this is what I should have had at first," said he. "Now you shall see what will happen."

And she did, though I think the result was quite a surprise to both of them. When Mr. Lambeth had given the lid a violent wrench and a quick turn or two, it suddenly shot upward as if it had been discharged from a catapult, cutting as it went a considerable gash in Mr. Lambeth's wrist, and making a dent in the ceiling where it struck. At the same time it seemed that a geyser of canned apples had gone into active business. Part of the fruit followed the lid to the ceiling, to which it adhered like a chaotic sort of fresco; another portion struck Mr. Lambeth full in the face, half blinding him; and a very generous quantity spattered over his clothing, and also over that of his wife, who stood near by and was too much surprised to escape this small but very violent volcano.

At this interesting juncture the door-bell rang; the first of the expected guests had arrived. Mrs. Lambeth looked at her husband in a pathetically helpless way.

"What shall we do? she asked anxiously.

"It would be better for you to answer the bell, my dear. You see I am particularly engaged at the present moment," answered Mr. Lambert in a tone that caused his wife to break into a little hysterical laugh. Then hastily wiping from her dress (which was fortunately washable) as much as she could of the effects of her recent shower-bath, she proceeded to open the door.

The guest proved to be Mrs. Marshall, a near neighbor, whose practical advice regarding housekeeping had been of great assistance to Mrs. Lambeth; and when the latter had explained the situation and apologized for the delay in opening the door and for her own flurried appearance, the visitor, having indulged in a hearty laugh, laid aside her bonnet and said, "Well, I shall go straight to the kitchen and help Mr. Lambeth out of his dilemma, poor man," which she immediately did.

After he had washed his face and hands, the cut in his wrist, which was now bleeding considerably, was carefully examined by the Good Samaritan neighbor, while Mrs. Lambeth stood by, looking much concerned, as might be expected of a young wife whose first year of wedded life had not yet passed.

"The wound is not a fatal one by any means, my dear young friend, so there is no need for such a look of alarm on your pretty face," said Mrs. Marshall with a laugh. "Just get me some white sugar, a needle and thread, and a strip of old cotton, and Richard will soon be himself again."

"Old cotton!" repeated Mrs. Lambeth. "There isn't a loose piece of cotton in the house, not even of new goods. You see everything was already made up when we went to housekeeping, and I have since had no occasion to purchase such material."

"Well, get me the oldest and softest handkerchief you have; that will answer the purpose," replied Mrs. Marshall; and then as she bound up the wounded wrist, she added: "You young folks must not fail to celebrate the first anniversary of your marriage. I see that you need to do so."

"Why so?" inquired the hostess.

"Because that is the time for the cotton wedding, and after you have celebrated that, you will be better prepared for such emergencies as the present one."

"I scarcely think a second affair of the kind will ever occur in this household," said Mr. Lambeth with an amused twinkle in his eyes. "At the very first opportunity I shall make an effort to exchange the remainder of our jars of canned apples for dynamite bombs, which are much less dangerous to keep about the house."

After both the ladies had laughed at this sally, Mrs. Marshall said to her hostess: "Now, while I am making Mr. Lambeth presentable, run and put on another dress before the rest of the guests arrive. I came in rather early, thinking that perhaps I might be of some service."

"Well, you certainly have been," cried both Mr. and Mrs. Lambeth gratefully.

This was the origin of this couple's cotton wedding, which was given on the eleventh of the following September, the first anniversary of their marriage.

The invitations for the wedding were written on thin strips of cottonwood about an inch and a half wide and four inches long, and were worded as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lambeth
At Home,
September eleventh, at ten o'clock A. M.
1892. 1893.

Each strip was wrapped in a piece of white glazed cotton, on which the address was printed; and the little packets were tied with cotton cords in different colors.

Mrs. Marshall, being possessed of excellent judgment and taste, proved an able adviser in arranging for the entertainment, and for two or three weeks prior to the eleventh of September she and Mrs. Lambeth were in almost daily consultation.

The principal colors used in decorating the house were blue and yellow, as at this season of the year the wild flowers were most plentiful and in their greatest beauty.

On the occasion of her marriage Mrs. Lambeth had received from her mother an old-time counterpane made of blue and white cotton, and now among the presents offered on the first anniversary of her wedding was a similar counterpane, and also a quaint cotton quilt pieced many years ago after a pattern called the "Rising Sun," which represented an immense orange-yellow sun on an indigo-blue ground. These three spreads and several others of pretty cretonne were very effectively used as portières.

On the front porch at each side of the hall door were arranged two tall sunflower plants that had been carefully removed from the garden and placed in blue earthen-ware bowls; and a number of blue crocks and jars containing handsome specimens of golden-rod and rudbeckia were arranged in the corners of the square hall, against the portières at each side of the doorways, and on the stair landings.

The stair-rail was twined with blue cheese-cloth; garlands of yellow maple leaves and a frieze of blue cheese-cloth looped with bunches of maple leaves ran along the walls of the hall near the top; and draperies of cheese-cloth were disposed over the doorways.

The parlor was decorated in a novel and appropriate manner with southern moss, pink cheese-cloth draperies, and cotton-balls from which the white contents were beginning to burst. A tasteful arch covered with these unique ornaments was constructed between the two side windows, and under it Mr. and Mrs. Lambeth stood to receive their guests. The decorations were also attractively

displayed upon the mantels and chandeliers and over the pictures and curtains; and as a fire was not needed, the basket of the grate was heaped with snowy picked cotton that overran the receptacle and dropped to the hearth, while the fire-place was surrounded with a frame of pink cheese-cloth, moss and cotton-balls.

A frieze of cheese-cloth upon the walls was caught up in graceful festoons by clusters of the cotton plant, and plants in bloom and others that had reached maturity were growing in blue and yellow jars set in various parts of the room.

The hostess wore a charming muslin gown figured with dainty-hued blossoms, the host was arrayed in a very natty morning suit of outing cloth, and most of the guests wore tasteful dresses or suits of cotton materials. There were some very pretty costumes of cretonne, Yeddo crêpe, sateen, mull, muslin, dotted Swiss, organdy, cheese-cloth and outing cloth.

The breakfast was served in the room back of the parlor and in the dining-room, the two apartments being connected by folding doors. There were a number of small tables, most of them *tête-a-tête*, and all covered with cloths prettily decorated with drawn-work. The napkins were made of blue-and-white checkered cotton, and the table service was lovely blue-and-white Holland Delft and blue-and-yellow majolica.

In these rooms the poetic golden-rod and exquisite purple wild aster were used with tasteful profusion, together with pale-yellow and aster-purple cheese-cloth. One mantel was banked with golden-rod and bore the date "1893" done in purple asters, while the other was covered with asters, with the date "1894" formed of golden-rod; and it was a difficult matter to tell which was the more effective.

In the center of each table was a round or square dish filled with wet sand and set in a circle of bursting cotton-balls; and into the sand had been thrust wild asters, blossom by blossom, with an edging of brilliant golden-rod.

For the gentlemen there were small sprays of golden-rod tied with narrow purple ribbons, and for the ladies clusters of wild asters tied with yellow ribbons.

The breakfast was prepared and served to correspond as far as possible with the decorations in color, and consisted of the following dainty edibles and drinkables:

Cantaloupe, which had been laid on ice until thoroughly chilled, served on deep blue plates.

Deviled oysters on the half-shell, with celery sandwiches.

A ham omelet, each portion being served in a curled blue cabbage leaf upon a yellow plate.

Broiled blue-fish with lemon sauce, accompanied by potato chips, salmon croquettes, browned corn muffins, little golden balls of butter, and coffee.

Lemon punch served in small blue cups.

Yellow and purple plums and grapes, offered in bowls of cracked ice.

Chocolate in dainty blue cups, and sponge cake.

The waitresses were negro women of the old régime, and wore blue-checked cotton gowns and high yellow turbans.

The windows of the dining-room opened upon a side verandah, and here were stationed a quartette of negro men who had most melodious voices, and who sang a number of quaint old-time songs, and performed delightful plantation melodies on their banjos and fiddles, while the guests were at table. Several of the songs with their wierd refrains were those frequently heard in the cotton-fields of the South when the plantation hands are picking the fleecy product, and these were especially enjoyed by the listeners.

The presents were very numerous and were mostly of a practical character, among them being a bolt each of bleached and unbleached cotton, several cotton dress patterns, a great deal of fancy work done with cotton, such as tatting, crocheting and knitted articles; curtains, table-covers, mats, doileys, gloves, prettily trimmed aprons, boxes of thread, sheetings, towelling, bed and pillow covers and shams, comforts, Hamburg trimmings, fancy dusting-caps, lamp cloths, dusting cloths, and most important of all, a bundle of old cotton.

Indeed, the assortment was so large that after Mrs. Marshall had inspected the collection, she remarked that if there was anything else made of cotton that a young housekeeper could possibly need, she failed to recall it.

A Paper Wedding.

JACK WILLARD and his wife had been married two years, and they were still so much in love with each other, and with the baby, and with their cosy, comfortable cottage, and with the world in general, that they decided to celebrate the second anniversary of their marriage with a paper wedding. As this was the first paper wedding that had ever been given in the town, expectation ran high and curiosity was considerably above par. The coming event was generally discussed by old and young, and often with amusing expressions of opinion.

"A paper weddin'!" exclaimed old Mrs. Simms when the news reached her attentive ears. "Well, that beats my day. I've hearn o' runaway weddin's, an' weddin's that didn't come off, but I never hearn tell o' a paper weddin' afore. What won't folks think about next!"

"It does seem like once marryin' oughter be bindin,' without havin' to marry over agin every two or three years," said Miss Oldgirl, who had brought the news. As she was a maiden of some forty Summers and as many Winters, it is likely that the proposed paper wedding did seem a trifle extravagant in her eyes.

The invitations were prettily written on parchment-like linen paper, unruled, and having rough, uneven edges. The sheets were rolled in scroll fashion and tied with white silken cord, and within was written the following:

1891. *John Roy Willard.* *Mr. and Mrs. John R. Willard* 1893. *Alice May Moore.*

request your presence,
on the second anniversary of their marriage,
at their Paper Wedding.
May 18, 1893.

Mrs. Willard asked the assistance of several of her most intimate friends, and for a few days prior to the entertainment all hands were busily engaged in preparing for the auspicious event.

"The affair will certainly present some novel features," said Mrs. Willard as she and her merry corps of assistants worked industriously away, their tongues keeping pace with their nimble fingers.

"Then its success is assured," spoke up a member of the party. "The very novelty of not knowing what to expect gives zest to an evening's entertainment."

"That is true," delcared another. "Half the charm is lost when you know just what is going to be done, and can map out the entire evening, even to the menu, before the entertainment begins."

"Isn't it stupid?" cried somebody else. "I have attended entertainments that were exact counterparts of all the others that had been given in the same house. One knew the whole programme from beginning to end, and the very chairs stood always in the same places until one felt a wild desire to change them about at all hazards, and so vary the monotony a little."

"On such occasions one feels as if one could forgive the hostess if supper began with ices and ended with oysters on the half-shell—just for the sake of affording a little variety," said the first speaker laughingly.

The present occupation of Mrs. Willard and her friends was the making of paper flowers, and for a wonder many of their productions were really quite natural, which is saying a great deal for work of this sort, which is often hideous enough to make Nature weep. Quantities of roses and rose-buds were made, and when these were twined amid festoons of leaves formed of green tissue paper, the effect was quite pleasing.

These garlands were hung over door-ways and picture frames and were used to loop back curtains and portières and to decorate the stair-rail and newel-post Great bunches of roses, clever imitations of tea-roses and such exquisite varieties as "The Bride," "Catherine Mermet," "American Beauty," "Marechal Niel," and the dark, rich "Jacqueminot," were heaped in vases and baskets

about the rooms; and while the eye was pleased with their dainty coloring, the olfactory organs were no less regaled, since Mrs. Willard placed within each bunch a delicate perfume as near the real odor of the flowers as possible.

A number of yards of tissue-paper garlands and balls of cut tissue paper in various bright colors were procured from the city and were used extensively throughout the rooms. A bower was made of them in the front parlor, and under it stood the host and hostess to receive their guests.

Mrs. Willard wore a dress that was fashioned principally of exquisitely tinted tissue paper over some thin material, and she carried a bouquet of paper flowers that were beautiful imitations of pink and white moss-roses.

Mr. Willard also carried out the general idea by wearing with his evening dress an immaculate paper shirt-front, with collar and cuffs of the same material. Several of the feminine guests relied largely on tissue or crêpe paper in various lovely hues for the adornment of their costumes, while many of the gentlemen wore paper neckties, and *boutonnières* consisting of paper rose-buds, or sprays of paper lilies-of-the-valley.

The decoration of the supper room was especially novel and attractive. Ropes of cut tissue paper festooned the walls, being caught up here and there with bands from which depended brilliant paper balls. A large number of these balls also hung from the ceiling on silken threads, and were later presented to the gentlemen as souvenirs, to be used as pen-wipers or for shaving papers.

A long oval table was covered with pale-blue paper and edged with a narrow border of finely cut and curled white tissue paper. In the center was a large, circular mirror, bordered by a broad band of natural-looking water-lilies and half-opened buds made of tissue paper. A spray or two of lilies were laid on the mirror as if floating on the placid bosom of a lake, and the general effect was quite artistic.

The plates laid for the guests had been purchased of some wholesale stationer, being made of pressed paper in imitation of flowered china; and they were placed on pretty paper mats, beside which were laid quaintly figured Japanese paper napkins.

The French peas were served in little paper trays, the uncapped strawberries in dainty paper baskets, a delicious sherbet in miniature paper buckets, and a variegated ice on a round white paper mat with an open-work border that looked like lace. After the ice came French kisses or mottoes, that popped when the paper was pulled apart, and contained bright-colored fancy paper caps and other head-dresses, with which the guests decorated themselves amid much merriment.

A small slice of wedding cake in a fancy paper box was presented to each lady to take home and dream upon, and thus discover the fate which the future held in store for her.

With the coffee were served some very delicious-looking crackers, but when the deluded guests sought to break them, the discovery was made that they were very perfect imitations in paper, which some cracker house was using as an advertisement. After all had laughed over the deception, real crackers were offered.

In one of the upper rooms were displayed the presents, which were both numerous and appropriate. Yearly subscriptions to several of the leading magazines and periodicals were among the most pleasing, and there were enough books, both grave and gay, to form the nucleus of an excellent library. The list also included some etchings and photogravures, together with several boxes of stationery and packages of visiting cards, and some paper knives and paper weights, the latter being made of paper currency that had been reduced to a pulp and moulded into fanciful forms.

In fact, every article displayed was made either wholly or in part of paper, the smallest being a paper of pins, and the most valuable a new fifty-dollar note, offered by the parents of the genial host. Most of the guests had previously exchanged confidences as to the nature of their gifts, so that there were few duplicates.

The paper wedding was so different from anything that had taken place in the town before, that the entire company voted it a great success.

A Leather Wedding.

The Bronsons were charming people, and, as their large circle of friends were well aware, they knew how to give most delightful entertainments, in which they were materially assisted by the possession of a very attractive home.

One bright November morning as Mr. Bronson was finishing his breakfast preparatory to starting for his office, he was asked by his wife to bring home some shoes for her inspection, as it would not be convenient for her to go shopping for a day or two.

"Mary Louisa Bronson," said her spouse in mock seriousness, "is it possible that you are clamoring for more shoes?"

"Yes, it is," declared his better half, unabashed; "and if you value your peace of mind on your return, you will not forget them."

"As if a man was ever known to forget an errand with which his mind was charged," said Mrs. Dalton, who was visiting Mrs. Bronson.

"But speaking of shoes," suddenly said Mrs. Dalton to her hostess as though inspired by a novel idea, "if you were to have a leather wedding, you would doubtless receive a goodly supply of shoes, gloves and other articles of leather as presents. If I am not mistaken, the twentieth of this month will be the third anniversary of your marriage, and that, as you know, is the proper time for a leather wedding. Dear me, how time does fly. It seems but a few months since I was an attendant at your wedding."

"I have been an attendant ever since upon her very numerous whims and fancies," said Mr. Bronson lugubriously; "I would that time might seem as brief to me. If there is a possibility, however, of keeping Mary supplied with shoes and gloves, I heartily advocate the celebration of our leather wedding, painful as the recollections may be which the occasion would necessarily bring up," he added with a profound sigh.

"Like the dutiful wife that I ever have been, I acknowledge your word as law," responded Mrs. Bronson with a merry twinkle in her brown eyes, "and I will commemorate my entrance into bondage in an appropriate and fitting way. We will celebrate our leather wedding, though I warn you that it would be far more economical for you to bring me the needed shoes, and even add a pair of ten-button gloves to *boot*—if such a word is applicable where gloves are concerned."

"After Mr. Bronson had gone, his wife turned to her friend and said:

"My dear Isabel, I am really greatly obliged to you for your timely suggestion. I intended to give an entertainment of some sort while you were with me, and the celebration of our leather wedding strikes me as just the thing. I mean to have one, and you shall help me plan it."

"The suggestion was made merely in a spirit of fun," responded Mrs. Dalton, "but if you are really in earnest, I shall take great pleasure in lending you any assistance I can"; and the two fell to discussing the subject with all the ardor of a couple of young girls arranging for a genuine wedding.

"It seems to me that any other wedding anniversary would be easier to arrange for," said the hostess, "I haven't the least idea of how to go about it."

"Well, the first thing to be done is to decide on the form of invitation," replied Mrs. Dalton. "I think it would be decidedly novel and appropriate to have the cards printed in gilt or silver lettering on oblong pieces of white leather, and enclose them in envelopes of the leathery material called leatherette. Embossed goods are also shown in this imitation leather, which resembles antique vellum; and both paper and envelopes may be obtained at any large stationery shop."

"That is a capital idea," answered Mrs. Bronson, "and can be carried out quite easily; and I would suggest displaying as much leather-covered furniture as possible on the evening of the entertainment. I have several handsome chairs and couches covered with leather, and I could borrow from intimate friends and hire from a dealer a sufficient number of pieces to complete the furnishing of the rooms on the lower floor, all other furniture being removed for the occasion. It would also be a good plan to have an abundance of fur rugs strewn about the floors."

"The effect of such an arrangement would certainly be both novel and attractive," said Mrs. Dalton, "and it could be greatly heightened by hiring a number of pieces of dyed leather, such as are to be found in upholstery shops, and using them as draperies for chairs, tables, mantels, walls and pictures. Some of these leathers are exquisitely tinted, their colors ranging from delicate peach-blossom shades to brilliant scarlets, greens and blues. Of course, they would not be injured if used as I have suggested, so a dealer would not hesitate to hire them to a responsible person."

"I might purchase enough leather to make lambrequins for the mantel-shelves in the parlor, library and dining-room," replied Mrs. Bronson. "They could be prettily fringed at the edges, and then put on in moderate folds with brass-headed tacks. And now, what about the menu?"

"You know your resources in that direction better than I do," laughingly said the visitor.

"To carry out the idea fully," said Mrs. Bronson with a smile, "I should serve some of the beefsteaks that are frequently imposed upon us by a heartless butcher, for they are the most leathery edibles that I can at present call to mind."

"I can sympathize with you," said Mrs. Dalton. "But seriously, I think it would be effective to have a leather or russet tone prevail throughout the menu, and to decorate the dining-room in the same color. Branches of russet leaves, such as oak or wild cherry, could be ornamentally arranged on the mantel-shelf, walls and windows, and a broad band of leaves about a center-piece of fruit or a bed of brown-eyed Susans would be handsome for the table. The plates could be placed on a broad band of bright-blue or yellow leather extending about the table and bordered at both edges with brown leaves."

"I rather like that," said Mrs. Bronson; "it would be so odd. Then for the first course I might have oysters browned in meal and served on thin slices of lemon, together with sandwiches, made by spreading thin crackers with grated celery mixed with lemon juice. The next course could be nicely browned chicken dressed with mushrooms, croquettes, and a piece of toasted bread spread with a mixture of butter, cheese, and the yellow of an egg, with a little mustard dressing."

"Next," said Mrs. Dalton as her friend paused, "you could serve salted almonds and small pieces of nut-cake, followed by chocolate cream moulded in the form of a dainty boot or shoe, and accompanied by chocolate or spice cake. Lastly, coffee and brown wafers."

"Capital!" exclaimed Mrs. Bronson. "That will be as dainty and apetizing a menu as one can well wish, and it will be in perfect keeping with the occasion."

"I remember once hearing a couplet," said Mrs. Dalton, "that would be decidedly appropriate as an inscription upon the wall of the hall or dining-room. It is—

'There's nothing like leather,
When well put together.'

The letters could be formed of brown Autumn leaves, and they could be securely pinned in position without damaging the wall."

"Do you not think my brown cloth dress and long tan gloves would be suitable for me to wear?" inquired Mrs. Bronson.

"Quite so," replied her friend. "You might array yourself as a 'study in brown,' after one of Whistler's portraits. Your brown hair and eyes would help to complete the charming picture."

"I declare," exclaimed Mrs. Bronson enthusiastically, "there will be no need for me to do aught but follow your excellent suggestions. The leather wedding shall certainly take place, and I am confident, thanks to you, that it will be a success. By-the-bye, instead of the traditional bride's cake in white satin boxes, I will distribute chocolate cake in dainty boxes of tan leatherette."

"And I suggest that the boxes be tied with bronzed or gilt shoe-strings, such as are used for lacing fancy shoes."

"The suggestion is at once accepted!" cried Mrs. Bronson gaily.

For the next few days the two ladies were deeply absorbed in arranging for the leather wedding; and after Mr. Bronson had helped to move furniture, had interviewed various leather firms and had tacked up mantel lambrequins throughout the lower part of the house, he humbly acknowledged that he would be quite willing to furnish his better half with one pair of shoes per week, or even two, if she would relieve him of further tasks. But she was obdurate, and turned a deaf ear to his pleading. He had asked for a leather wedding, and he should have one.

In the large, square hall were numerous fur rugs, and the walls of both the hall and dining-room were decorated with trophies of the chase—dressed skins of various animals, mounted heads of elk and deer, and numerous curious hunting implements, ranging from Indian arrows and bows to flint-lock rifles and still more antiquated blunderbusses.

Among the large number of presents bestowed upon the fortunate couple were pocket-books and purses, travelling-cases, hand-bags, cuff and collar boxes, gloves, shoes, slippers, handsomely bound books and portfolios, trunks, embossed leather screens, a set of dining-room chairs handsomely upholstered in leather, and many other useful and ornamental articles made wholly or partly of leather.

Indeed, as Mrs. Bronson and her friend and able assistant were examining the gifts after the guests had departed, they were both surprised to find that so many pretty things could be fashioned from leather, and that the homely material contributed so largely to our comfort and happiness.

A Wooden Wedding.

"DID you know there was to be a wedding quite soon?" asked Mrs. May as she dropped in to see her friend, Mrs. Handy, and found several other callers assembled there.

Immediately there ensued an avalanche of interrogations, for, if we except gowns and millinery, there is no topic of conversation more dear to the feminine heart than a prospective wedding.

"Dear me, no! Whose wedding is it?" "When is it to be?" "When did you hear about it?" "Is it Nell Jones and Tom Henderson?" "Who is the girl?" Who is the man?" "Who are to be the bridesmaids?" These and a dozen other questions followed the important announcement in less time than it takes to tell of it.

"And both parties have been married before," admitted Mrs. May when the confusion of tongues had somewhat subsided.

"Both parties married before! Who in the world can they be?" cried the various members of the little company, wondering afresh.

"Don't torture us any longer, we beseech you," cried the chorus.

"Well, for fear of dire consequences, I will relieve the severe mental strain by divulging the profound secret,"announced Mrs. May, unable longer to withstand the supplications of her auditors, "Mr. and Mrs. Wallace are the happy couple."

"Mr. and Mrs. Wallace!" ejaculated the full chorus, still more mystified. "Why, they have been married these five years."

"Of course," assented Mrs. May, "and they are now going to celebrate their wooden wedding."

"A wooden wedding!" said Mrs. Handy laughing. "No wonder we were mystified."

"How delightful!" cried the sentimental young unmarried lady of the party. "I mean to have a wooden wedding myself some day."

A few days later the invitations for the wooden wedding were sent out. The cards, which had been obtained in the city, were made of a light, pliable wood, highly polished and on them was printed the following significant formula:

Edward T. Wallace. 1889. *Marie Nevelle.* 1894.

A Wooden Wedding.
Mr. and Mrs. Edward T. Wallace
At Home.
Tuesday evening, January 2, 1894,
at eight o'clock.

The cards were enclosed in envelopes made of paper colored to represent gray bark with patches of green moss upon it, and were decidedly artistic in appearance.

Mrs. Wallace possessed very good taste and considerable originality, and the decoration of her home on this occasion was in perfect accord with the event to be celebrated.

Between the windows in the back parlor was a rustic arch built of small boughs with the bark and lichen still upon them, and tastefully decorated with gray Southern moss, which had been procured from a florist.

Moss was also hung upon the chandeliers, picture-frames and mirrors, formed into lambrequins for the windows and softly draped over the folding doors between the parlors, strings of smilax being twined with it to enliven the sombre gray tone.

A rustic basket constructed of gnarled pieces of wood hung from the arch and held a beautiful sword fern, the long, slender fronds drooping gracefully from its knotty sides.

Pretty rustic stands supporting blooming plants and vines were placed here and there about the rooms and hall and provided very effective bits of brilliant coloring.

Behind the arch was a pyramid of pottted flowers, ferns and palms, which made an effective background for the bridal couple as they stood beneath the arch.

Mrs. Wallace wore a beautiful and becoming costume of gray silk trimmed with green velvet, which harmonized admirably with the surroundings.

On the mantel-shelf of the front parlor was seen the date "1889" in rustic figures made of small limbs of the winged ash, the bark of which is very rough and picturesque in appearance. The numerals stood upon a bed of smilax edged with Southern moss, which hung in graceful festoons over the edge of the shelf. On the back-parlor mantel the date, "1894" was similarly arranged. In both cases the figures were about two feet high and twined with smilax.

On a rustic table near the arch lay a unique marriage register bound in birch-bark, in which the guests wrote their names, using a pen with a carved wooden handle, and ink from a carved wooden ink-stand made in Switzerland. The register, pen-holder and ink-stand were among the presents.

The hall, which was square and roomy, presented a very pretty scene. In the center was an octagonal frame-work of cedar branches and bark festooned with Southern moss and smilax; and this rustic pavilion and the hall itself were lighted by several large and handsome Japanese lanterns of fantastic shape, which shed a soft mellow radiance upon the gay company beneath.

Rustic tables, chairs and settees were arraged about the hall, and from the moss-covered booth in the center chocolate and Carlsbad wafers were dispensed to the guests throughout the evening by four of Mrs. Wallace's girl friends. The supper-room was attractively decorated, the colors being gray and green.

No cloth was used upon the table, the highly polished surface of which gleamed handsomely in the light. Down the center was placed a long, narrow mirror surrounded by a broad band of gray moss edged with a narrow string of smilax. The moss was sprinkled with blue violets, the delicate fragrance of which filled the room.

On the silvery surface of this simulated lake was a miniature birch-bark canoe banked with green moss, upon which the dates "1889" and "1894" were formed with blue violets, one date being on each side of the bank.

Instead of doileys, pretty Indian birch-bark mats decorated with bright-colored quills were used.

The first course was raw oysters served on the half-shell. The shells were arranged on beds of sea-weed spread upon wooden platters, and the oysters were eaten with small and daintily carved wooden forks. Celery salad, half a lemon and a large square cracker were presented to each guest.

The second course was also served on wooden platters, and consisted of beef croquettes, chicken salad, cheese wafers, sardine sandwiches, and lettuce salad served in half an egg, the yellow of which was mixed with the lettuce. Large wooden forks accompanied this course.

Next came a *maraschino* sherbet served in quaint little wooden piggins, and eaten with wooden spoons. Both the forks and the spoons were of Swiss manufacture, and were gifts.

The last course was composed of Malaga grapes and sliced bananas and oranges, and was presented on pretty little Japanese wooden trays. A delicious substitute for this course would be *pistache* cream moulded to represent bunches of grapes.

Of course, the immense variety of useful and ornamental articles that come under the general head of wooden-ware allows the guests at such an entertainment to consult both purse and inclination in choice of presents.

A Woolen Wedding.

"MY dear, I am puzzled to decide just what sort of an entertainment to give," said Mrs. Appleton to her sister, who had come to make her a visit. "We owe a great many social debts to the married folks of the neighborhood and town, and I want to have the young people, too. So I am trying to devise a plan that will include both the young folks and their elders."

"Why not celebrate the anniversary of your wedding, which occurs, if I mistake not, near the end of this month?" suggested Rose.

"How many years of wedded misery must one endure before being entitled to celebrate his entrance into bondage?" inquired Mr. Appleton.

"Oh! the reward begins with the first year, when the cotton wedding occurs. Then other anniversaries are observed at irregular intervals up to the seventy-fifth, which is very appropriately marked by the diamond wedding."

"I should think the spirit would become too chastened to care for the vanities and pomps of the world, after seventy five years of married life," remarked Mr. Appeton with a dramatic sigh.

"Which anniversary will your next one be?" asked Rose, disregarding with fine contempt her brother-in-law's apostrophe.

"The seventh, which is the woolen wedding," answered Mrs. Appleton. "The date is the twenty-fourth of June, and the weather is then a little too warm for such an entertainment. Winter seems to me the proper season for celebrating a woolen wedding."

"I don't know about that," said her husband. "Sheep are very important factors in the production of wool, and sheep are just now very seasonable, especially Spring lamb and green peas."

"That is a good idea, and suggests another," said Rose. "Why not give your woolen wedding in the guise of a pastoral entertainment."

"You might do that, Theresa," remarked Mr. Appleton. "A sort of social barbecue, with burgoo and barbecued meats."

"The very thing!" cried Rose in delight. "And what a lovely spot yonder bit of woodland would be in which to hold it."

"The idea is worth considering," admitted her sister thoughtfully. "We will talk it over at length after the girls are here."

The girls arrived in due season, the matter was fully discussed, and a few days later invitations for the wedding were sent out. They were printed on parchment paper and had very much the appearance of legal documents, each one being stamped with a large red seal, and having a bit of the woolen tape attached. The wording, also, was in legal form, being as follows:

To All Men, Greeting:—

Be it known that I, John Appleton, and Theresa, my wife, have appointed the twenty-fourth day of June, in the year of our Lord, eighteen hundred and ninety-four, on which to celebrate the seventh anniversary of our marriage, and that you are hereby summoned to be present on the aforesaid day, and to take part in the observance of the said anniversary, from 10 o'clock a. m. until 5 o'clock p. m.

Given under our hands and seals this tenth day of June, eighteen hundred and ninety-four.

Signed:—John Appleton.
Theresa Appleton.

Attest:—
Rose Douglas.
Madge Lamar.
Catherine Selwyn.

The signatures were written and the seal which stamped the red wax upon the documents, and which had been made according to Mr. Appleton's directions at the stationer's where the invitations were engraved, bore the inscription, "1887.—Woolen Wedding.—1894."

The hours for the entertainment were arranged to suit the guests from the city, who could come on a convenient morning train and return on a train leaving a little after five in the afternoon. A few guests who lived at a greater distance were asked to remain over night, and three young men who were supposed to be especially interested in the three girls were invited two or three days beforehand to spend a week at the Appletons' pretty country home.

The beautiful piece of woodland which had attracted Rose's attention was chosen as the scene of the entertainment, and suitable preparations were made under Mr. Appleton's supervision. A tent was erected for the ladies and another for a kitchen, a rustic dining table and seats were constructed under the overarching trees, a tennis-court and croquet ground were laid off, a target was erected for archery practice, swings and hammocks were hung, and a trench was dug in which to barbecue the meats, a skilled hand in the mystery of barbecuing having been secured.

The guests who came by train were met at the station and transported to the scene of the festivities by vehicles provided by the host; and it was not long after the appointed hour before the grove presented a most lively and attractive appearance.

Before a wigwam built of bark and hung with Indian blankets—some of them of the bright and artistic Navajo variety and all of them wedding gifts,—stood Mr. and Mrs. Appleton, and the three young ladies with their attendants. The ladies of the receiving party were dressed in white flannels and the gentlemen in gay flannel outing costumes, and the different guests wore either blue or white flannels, with here and there a jacket or scarf of gypsy red. A great many of the young people had jaunty caps of bright-hued flannel.

An excellent string band had been engaged from town for the occasion, and was stationed near a level stretch of closely trimmed greensward, upon which all who felt so inclined tripped gayly to the tempting strains of the music; and those who did not care to dance found entertainment in the various other pastimes inaugurated or suggested by the host and hostess, which ranged from swinging and "mumble-the-peg" to lawn-tennis and pitching quoits.

At one o'clock dinner was served, and sharp were the appetites of those who sat down to eat it; for, what with early rising, the long ride, the fresh country air and the healthful and pleasant exercise, every appetite was thoroughly whetted to do ample justice to the toothsome spread.

The repast included delicious burgoo and salt-rising light-bread, cress-and-dandelion salad, stuffed eggs, pickles and green-tomato catsup, barbecued mutton, baked potatoes, corn-pone, coffee, chicken salad, cheese-sticks, Spring lamb, sweetbreads and peas, ham sandwiches, strawberry short-cake and cherries.

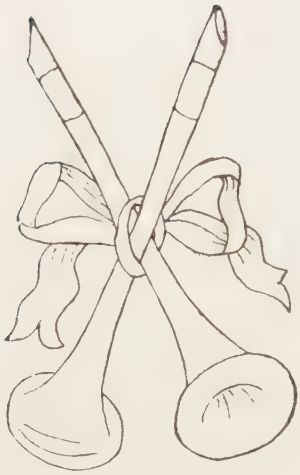
The table was set with plain ironstone ware that had been hired from a china shop, and the salads were served on wooden platters edged with nasturtium leaves, and were slightly flavored with stems of the same plant. The cherries were brought to table hanging in tempting clusters on the leafy twigs upon which they had grown.

Later in the afternoon, when the guests were disposed to sit about in the shade and converse or be entertained, Rose, and one of the young men who possessed a sweet tenor voice sang in costume the "Gobble Song" from *The Mascot*; and then a guest who was noted for his powers of mimicry recited "Mary had a Little Lamb" after the manner of a bashful school-boy making his first speech. This was followed by a German version of "Mary's Lamb" that was quite amusing, and then by a second parody, *à la* the typical Boston girl, that simply convulsed the audience with its humor and droll rendition.

Just before the company took their departure, tea and tea-biscuits were served. The tea was brought out already prepared, but was now heated in gypsy fashion in kettles suspended over wood fires by means of poles that rested upon forked sticks driven into the ground. There were three or four of these kettles placed here and there about the grounds, and around each was gathered a circle of merry tea-drinkers.

With the exception of the pretty blankets that decorated the wigwam, the presents were not offered for general inspection. They were varied and numerous and mostly of a useful nature, the list including two carpets, a number of rugs and portières, worsted quilts, a handsome overcoat, woolen dress patterns, fine knitted underwear for both the host and hostess, hosiery, shawls, a beautiful wrap, table-covers, afghans, blankets, dressing gowns and sacks, slippers, gloves, mufflers and many other articles of a similar nature. In addition, there were several gifts that were merely allied to wool, among them being several handsome books bound in sheep; while a friend who was humorously inclined sent a set of the writings of Charles and Mary Lamb.

A Tin Wedding.



"MY dear," said Mrs. Church to her husband one pleasant morning early in May, "I wish you would try to mend the two milk-pans on the kitchen table. I would like to use them, but they both leak."

"Remind me of them when I start for town this afternoon," replied Mr. Church, "and I will take them to a tinsmith."

"But I need them at once," answered she with emphasis; "and I want you to do the mending."

"How am I to mend tinware?" her husband asked in evident surprise. "One must have solder and the necessary tools; and besides, the tinsmith's craft is a branch I neglected to take up when I was at college."

"This neglect will not excuse you in the present case," answered Mrs. Church with a smile. "I have provided for all exigencies. A plentiful supply of solder is there with the pans, ready for use. I bought it the other day from an itinerant vender, and it's really a wonderfully useful thing, always ready, so that now every man can be his own tinsmith, and every housekeeper can be spared much vexation by having her kitchen and dairy utensils repaired without delay."

"Mariah has some cunning tramp been imposing upon your credulous nature again?" asked Mr. Church with mock solemnity. "Have you already forgotten the wonderfully convenient stick mucilage, which some plausible individual sold you a few weeks ago as a medium that would stick 'closer than a brother,' but which in sad reality would hardly hold a fly on a cobweb? Have you ceased to remember the patent plaster which was guaranteed to rid our household of ants, and which not only proved a toothsome delicacy for our own ants, but also attracted those of our neighbors and induced them to take up their abode with us?"

"But I know that this solder is excellent," said Mrs. Church; "and besides, I had the man thoroughly illustrate the manner of using it before I would consent to buy. He mended two articles with it, and it acted beautifully. I would use it myself and not trouble you, but somehow a man is always more skilful than a woman in such matters."

This was a diplomatic remark well worthy of the sex, and proved an irresistible bait. A few minutes later Mr. Church was in the kitchen critically examining the tinware that needed mending; for in addition to the two pans, his wife had discovered that the handles were loose on several kettles and that the spout of a coffee-pot needed immediate attention.

Then Mrs. Church undertook to explain just how the soldering was to be done, but with very indifferent success. I do not know whether she was a poor teacher or her pupil was slow of comprehension, but the upshot of the matter was that Mr. Church spilled grease over his clothes from the lighted candle which entered into the process, burned a hole in a rug through neglecting to extinguish a burning match, and finally when some of the melted solder ran down his sleeve, he utterly lost his temper.

Then his wife suddenly remembered that the tin about the apertures should be scraped in order to make the solder adhere, whereupon he very feelingly inquired why she had not waited until the next day before remembering this trivial point; and then Mrs. Church felt called upon to remark that anyone with the faintest claim to common sense ought to have known as much.

On his return from town that evening Mr. Church brought back the entire array of tins, nicely mended and also a peace-offering in the shape of a box of chocolates, for which his better half had an especial fondness; and he actually suggested that they should celebrate the tenth anniversary of their marriage, which would occur that month, by giving a tin wedding.

"By this method we may be able to secure a sufficient supply of tinware to render it unnecessary for us to do our own mending for a long time to come," he said with a laugh at the recollection of his recent unsuccessful experiment.

"I never could understand," remarked his wife, "why they postpone the tin wedding until the

tenth anniversary. The need of tinware begins on the first day of housekeeping, and by the time ten years have passed the housewife should certainly be fully supplied in that line."

"Perhaps the celebration is delayed for the purpose of replacing those articles that need repairing in households that do not rejoice in the possession of patent preparations for mending tinware," suggested Mr. Church innocently.

"Or that lack skilful amateur artisans to do the work," added his wife sweetly; and then they very wisely turned the conversation to other subjects.

The suggestion of a tin wedding was not lost on Mrs. Church, however; for after talking the matter over with several friends and receiving their opinions and suggestions, she sent out cards of invitation about a week later. They were in rhyme and read as follows:

Mr. J. B. Church and wife,
To celebrate their wedded life
Of ten brief years of joy and bliss,
Present their compliments with this,
And take occasion here to say,
On afternoon of tenth of May
At "Hayfields" they much hope to see
You, just about the hour of three.

These unique invitations were written on parchment-like paper, and to each was fastened a small half-moon of tin bearing "1884" on one side and "1894" on the other. The invitations were rolled and fastened with narrow strips of tin.

"Hayfields" was the name of Mr. Church's handsome country place, and it was an ideal spot for a May-day entertainment, being situated only a short distance from town, on a slight wooded eminence from which broad hay-fields stretched in every direction. The house was a roomy one, with broad, pleasant porches and was surrounded by an inviting lawn generously supplied with shade trees, which were now in the full glory of tender green foliage and late blossoms.

Toward three o'clock on the afternoon of the tenth of May, numerous vehicles were seen approaching "Hayfields" from various points of the compass, an especially numerous array coming from the direction of the town. The hostess was charming in an ideal dairy-maid's costume fashioned in Watteau style, and cordially received her visitors on the large front porch, which was decorated in a truly original manner.

Tin buckets, pans and other untensils of many shapes and sizes, all of which were presents from the goodly company, were hung about the doorway and windows opening upon the porch, and the pillars were decorated with a profusion of tin dippers, cups, graters, match-safes and other useful articles of small size, while vegetables and fruits canned in tin were arranged artistically about the bases of the pillars. Chairs were placed in small groups upon the porch and under the trees.

In a pleasant part of the lawn stood a plain but scrupulously clean wooden table, and here one of Mrs. Church's young girl friends, picturesquely attired as a milk-maid, served rich iced milk to the thirsting guests out of milk-cans that shone like burnished silver. Not far away was a second table, where another pretty girl, also in milk-maid's costume, dispensed delicious fresh buttermilk from a churn at her side to all who perferred that wholesome acid beverage.

After the guests had all arrived and were engaged in pleasant conversation, a few introductory bars were played on a piano placed near an open front window, and at a given signal a company of pretty milk-maids, carrying stools and gleaming pails, tripped from the house and stationed themselves upon a grassy plot near the window. A lively march was then performed, and the maids executed an interesting drill, in which the stools and pails played an important part.

This performance was heartily encored, and after a portion of it had been repeated, a trio of young men with excellent voices gave "The Tinker's Song," from *Robin Hood*, and as an encore, one of the three sang "The Old Tin Dipper on the Nail."

Mr. Church stood by his wife's side and helped receive the guests; and, not to be outdone by her in the matter of costume, he had arrayed himself as a veritable *chef*, even to the voluminous white cap and spotless apron which form part of the culinary artist's working costume. With his black moustache waxed and curled in a truly French manner, he looked the picture of an importation just from Paris; and he had provided himself with an immense tin spoon, which he flourished from time to time in a decidedly autocratic way.

After this divertisement, and after the guests had been "stirred around," as Mr. Church expressed it, he produced from some convenient hiding-place an immense dinner-horn, which he blew loud and lustily. Hereupon the brigade of milk-maids took upon themselves the duties of waitresses, and, each being supplied with a tin tray, they quickly served refreshments.

Mrs. Church presided over one of the tables upon the lawn, to which were brought, fresh from the cool spring-house, a number of milk-pans holding in their shining depths the richest of wrinkled yellow cream. This the fair hostess ladled out into dishes piled high with luscious strawberries that had been gathered from the dewy fields only a few hours before.

Various cakes in fancy shapes were passed on tin trays, and liquid refreshment was offered in little tin cups that had been rented from a tin shop. These cups were painted in gaudy shades of red, blue and green, and bore various inscriptions in gilt, such as "For a Good Boy," "For a Good Girl," "Papa's Pet," "Mamma's Joy," etc., and they afforded considerable amusement as they were passed among the guests.

In addition to the numerous utensils of tin that are required in a model kitchen, there were many offerings of a practical nature in copper and brass, and also several pretty and useful articles in aluminum.

When the guests took their departure, each was presented with a small tin trumpet as a fitting souvenir of the occasion, and as the numerous vehicles rolled homeward through the dusk of evening, the note of the tin-trumpet was "heard in the land"; for the guests were in a merry humor and, entering fully into the spirit of the affair, blew joyfully and long as they rode away.

One witty young woman, doubtless recalling the refreshing contents of the milk-pans, was heard to remark that in more senses than one the *crême de la crême* was present at this charming celebration of a tin wedding.

[Note.—The celebration as above described (with some slight modifidations) took place in one of the Southern States. If the anniversary should fall upon a month when outdoor entertainment was impossible, the suggestions should be followed as far as practicable in the house.—Editor]

A Silk and Linen Wedding.

WHEN Mrs. Jones returned from a shopping expedition one day, she found awaiting her Mr. and Mrs. Anderson's invitation to their silk and linen wedding. The envelope was made of Irish linen paper and contained two cards fastened together with two pieces of red silk ribbon. On the back of one card was a Chinese dragon and on the other a phœnix, these two fabulous creatures being regarded in the Flowery Kindom, as emblems of conjugal fidelity, while the pieces of red ribbon denoted that Fate had ordained the marriage of this couple from the time of their birth.

In one card were the names of the host and hostess and the date of the entertainment, and the other bore the husband's name, his wife's maiden name, the date of their marriage and, written in one corner, the words *Soie et Linge*, signifying that this was the silk and linen anniversary of their wedding.

On the afternoon named in the invitations Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Dawson, each having her husband safely in charge, set out for the scene of the festivities. They were both arrayed in dainty gowns of Summer silk, and the gentlemen were comfortable in white duck trousers and pongee silk vests and coats.

The Andersons lived in a charming suburban villa surrounded by ample grounds, and the latter had been very attractively ornamented for the occasion.

The host and hostess received their guests under a large, square blue-and-white awning, which was stretched from the front porch out over the well kept lawn and was prettily and appropriately decorated with bright draperies of China silk, gilded hempen ropes and tassels, and large pompons of tow in different colors. Camp chairs and stools were placed about under the awning for those who wished to rest or have a social chat in its comfortable shade.

Mrs. Anderson was dressed in a lovely costume of blue-and-white silk trimmed with Irish lace, and she wore a corsage bouquet of delicate, star-like flax blossoms, and carried a larger bunch of the same flowers in her hand. Her toilette was completed by a wide-brimmed white straw hat adorned with blue ribbon and an artistic disposal of pale-yellow silk cocoons. Mr. Anderson wore an inmaculate white duck suit, and a white straw hat banded with blue ribbon.

The porch was decorated like the awning, with the addition of branches of mulberry leaves, and it was set with small tête-à-tête tables, each covered with a square of linen drawn-work, in the center of which was placed an ornamental flower-pot containing a blooming flax plant.

Here the guests were served when they chose with a dainty luncheon, the menu of which was as follows: yellow tomato salad served on crisp lettuce leaves, sliced galantine of fowls garnished with currant jelly, sweetbread patties with a layer of mushrooms on each, beaten biscuit with lemon jelly centers, cheese straws, sardine sandwiches, iced tea, sherry punch, and pine-apple and raspberry sherbets.

Four pretty waitresses and two young men served the luncheon, each of whom had been selected by the hostess with a view to the particular character she wished him or her to assume. She, of course, provided the necessary costumes for these hired attendants, and she took care to have silks and linen play an important part in their making.

The maids were costumed to represent respectively Russian, German, Dutch and Irish peasant girls and served the first part of the menu; while the young men, one of whom was dressed as a Chinaman and the other as a Persian, passed the iced tea and sherbets.

Rustic seats and folding chairs were scattered about the grounds under the trees or beneath large Chinese paper parasols supported upon tall bamboo poles.

Upon a wide, level space was a large platform covered with an open tent of blue-and-white canvas, and here the young folks merrily danced to the music of an excellent string band.

Some distance from the platform, yet near enough for one to hear the sweet strains of the music softened by distance, was a second pavilion, three sides of which were so plentifully hung with the beautiful presents which the host and hostess had received that the interior looked like some Oriental bazaar.

There were silk portières, curtains and lambrequins; silk and embroidered linen scarfs, draperies, throws and tidies; silk handkerchiefs, ribbons, gloves, quilts, embroideries, bonbon boxes, umbrellas, parasols, fans, dress patterns, sachet-bags, pin-cushions and cravats; linen table-cloths, napkins, doileys, crumb-cloths, towelling, handkerchiefs, sheeting, trimmings, laces and curtains; and numerous other useful, pretty and artistic articles made of silk or linen.

In an alcove formed of curtains and draperies at the back of this tent sat three veiled figures who impersonated the "Fates." They were clad in flowing silken robes, one black, another yellow and the third blue, symbolizing respectively the past, present and future; and each wore a veil to match her gown that completely concealed her head while permitting her to see clearly.

The first "Fate" held a mulberry branch, upon the twigs of which were fastened several silk cocoons; the second bore a distaff, from which numerous colored silken threads passed over a light frame-work somewhat as the strings are laid on an autoharp or zither; and this frame-work was held in the lap of the third "Fate," who with a pair of tiny scissors clipped off the threads and silently handed them to such of the young people as desired to know what the future held in store for them. To the ends of the threads were attached cards that lay heaped in a large basket near by, and on each card was written a couplet or prose sentence that was supposed to raise the curtain of futurity.

A few of the prophesies were as follows:

Be this thy fate e'er—arching skies
As bright as those in Paradise.

For thee great joy the future hath,
And flowers shall blossom in thy path.

A—lass! the Fates reserve for thee,
A parrot, cat and cup of tea.

Already thou hast beauty, health;
The fates will also give thee wealth.

Poor man, the Fates lay hard upon;
For life shalt thou sew buttons on.

Fair maid, thy mission in this life—
To be a widower's fifth wife.

Full oft shalt thou employ thy art,
Yet never capture maiden's heart.

Alack-a-day! young man, take care,
Thy fate is forty, fat and fair.

Neglected and withered, like leaf on the tree
In late Autumn time, thy poor heart shall be.

Thou shalt captive hearts string like fish on a line,
But woe unto thee when the angler strings thine!

Life is a lottery, and thou shalt draw only a blank.

Single, thou sighest for the wedded state; once wedded, thou wouldst gladly be single again.

Life hath given thee all things but a good husband, and the Fates are leading him to thee.

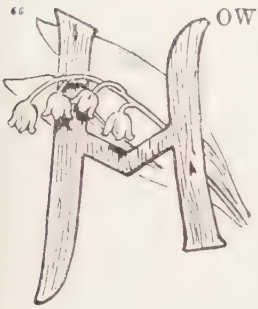
The silken cords were so arranged that the "Fate" who distributed them could tell which were suited to ladies and which to gentlemen; and the quantity of cord clipped off each time signified the length or brevity of the recipient's life.

For an hour these veiled secresses furnished reliable prophecies to all who cared for them, and a very merry throng was continually gathered about the alcove; then the curtains were drawn, and the "Fates" were seen no more, although the late arrival of three of the prettiest and most popular young ladies of the place was strangely coincident with the disappearance.

Dainty boutonnières of flax blossoms tied with blue ribbon were pinned upon the gentlemen's coats, and badges of silk in the flax-blossom shade, bearing the date and the occasion of the entertainment done in silver letters, were given to the ladies.

Mrs. Dawson laughingly remarked on the way home, "Such a beautiful entertainment almost reconciles me to the bondage of the wedded state."

A Crystal Wedding.



"HOW very pretty and appropriate," said Mrs. Van Dorn, holding up the invitation for inspection.

"Isn't it, though?" exclaimed her visitor. "The card looks like a dainty bit of crystal;" and taking it, she read as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Brooks
invite you to be present at their
Crystal Wedding,
Thursday, July 20th, 1893,
at 9 o'clock.
1878. 1893.

"If there is one thing for which I have a positive weakness, it is cut glass," said Mrs. Van Dorn presently; "and as it is a luxury I cannot afford to any extent, I have been longing for the time to come when I could give a crystal wedding. I positively envy Maria Brooks. I know she will receive any quantity of handsome presents."

"And will give a lovely and interesting entertainment, too," added the caller.

"That she always does," promptly affirmed the hostess. "We can safely anticipate a most delightful evening, full of happy surprises."

The newly arrived invitation which occasioned the foregoing conversation was in truth a very appropriate one for a crystal wedding. It was a rather large, square card made of a substance resembling celluloid, and showing mottlings that looked like snow-flakes in a sheet of clearest ice. The lettering was done in white script, and was sprinkled with diamond dust that glittered beautifully.

On the evening of the 20th the Brooks' homestead presented a most charming appearance. The decorations throughout the rooms were in white, crystal and green, and seemed to temper the warmth of the atmosphere to a perceptible extent.

The floor of the long parlor was covered with white crash, and potted palms and ferns (especially the long, gracefully curved sword ferns) were set about the room on fancy stands and banked upon the mantel. A mirror had been fitted into the grate behind the basket, which had been whitened and filled with great clumps of cut ferns; and garlands of green festooned the mantelpiece, the walls, the mirrors and the window curtains.

The room was lighted by wax candles in cut-glass candelabra, several of which were genuine antiques, having been loaned for the occasion by neighbors. The lights burned under white frosted shades.

The bay window at one end of the parlor had been converted into an exquisite grotto, and before this the bridal party received. In the center of the recess was a large, tin-lined basin having two small openings, one at the bottom and the other about two inches below the upper edge. This had been constructed by a tinner under Mr. Brooks' direction; and the addition of two lengths of rubber tubing produced a pretty fountain that played throughout the evening, one line of tubing being connected with the water pipes, and the other carrying off the surplus water from the basin.

The stream of water came up through a small mound of rock-work made of lumps of rough white marble that had been borrowed from a stone-cutter; and marble was also used to decorate the edge of the basin, together with pots of ferns and vines. The walls of the bay window were banked with palms and other foliage, and a light was thrown upon the fountain by means of a reflector.

Mrs. Brooks wore her handsome wedding gown of white silk, which had been newly embellished with exquisite crystal trimming, so that, as one of her friends expressed it, the embroidery seemed a dream of frost work on snow. On this occasion the bride wore diamond ornaments, this being permissible at a crystal wedding. She also carried a bouquet of white artificial flowers and leaves which glittered with imitation frost.

Instead of the traditional wedding-bell, the happy couple stood under a hanging basket made of crystal beads and filled with delicate maiden-hair ferns and the feathery asparagus vine.

Hanging in the wide doorway between the parlor and hall was a novel portière of asparagus vine looped back by bands of myrtle that had been subjected to a bath in a strong solution of alum until each leaf seemed encrusted with sparkling frost. The newel-post and stair rail were trimmed with graceful wreaths of green in which clusters of frosted leaves and branches were artistically placed.

In the supper-room, especially, the Frost-King seemed to have established his crystal realms. Around the walls was arranged a deep frieze of cedar branches, which had been brushed with a weak solution of glue and then sprinkled with flour and dusted with the sparkling powder used by sign-painters. In addition to this, Mr. Brooks had hired from a lamp dealer several dozen glass pendants, and these had been hung from the branches here and there, making most realistic imitations of icicles, which gleamed and glittered and threw out prismatic hues wherever the eye chanced to rest upon the frieze.

Across the window curtains were bands of frosted vines, with fringes of glittering glass pendants below.

In the center of the table was a pyramid of crystal blocks of ice resting on a bed of green moss, which concealed a large basin for receiving the drippings from the ice. The pyramid had been made to order at the ice factory and was a very novel and pretty affair. It consisted of four square blocks of graduated sizes; in the two upper ones were frozen bouquets of flowers, while the lower ones contained fruits encased in the crystal tubes.

Concealing the sides of the basin were clumps of crystalized grasses, ferns and sprigs of cedar and pine that glistened in the candle-light like a bit of landscape on a bright January morning. Outside of the center-piece was laid a broad border of mirrors, which in turn were edged with a narrow band of frosted grasses and vines. Diamond dust had been liberally sprinkled over the mossy pedestal of the pyramid, and also over the mirrors and bands of foliage, so that the decorations seemed to be spangled with a myraid of tiny blazing jewels.

The table was set entirely with glass, no china being used. Tall crystal candelabra holding wax candles lighted the table, while others were placed on the side-board and mantle-shelf, which were beautifully decorated to accord with the prevailing color scheme.

The menu was as follows:

Iced Bouillon.
Russian Salad. Galantine.
Cheese Wafers. Sandwiches.
Olives.
Moulded Lemon Jelly with Wine.
Ices. Assorted Cakes.
Frozen Coffee.

The iced bouillon was served in small glass bowls, and the second course appeared on glass plates, the Russian salad being prettily offered in halved green cucumber rinds, while the galantine was laid on lettuce leaves. The sandwiches were spread with grated ham and rolled. In the third course very dainty glass dishes were used for the lemon jelly, each portion being moulded over a rose or rosebud. The ices, which were served on small glass trays, were made of vanilla cream in the form of snow-balls, that were frosted with sugar-flakes. The assorted cakes were iced and frosted, and the frozen coffee was offered in dainty glass cups.

Instead of wedding cake in souvenir boxes for the guests, there were tiny bonbon baskets made of crystal beads and filled with sliced crystalized fruits and other confections. On the handle of each basket was tied a small white satin bow.

The presents, which were "numerous and costly," as the society journals express it, were displayed in an upper room, and ranged from hand mirrors to expensive berry-bowls and fruit sets. Of course, there were ink-stands, paper-weights, pen-holders, stamp-boxes and many other pretty trifles made of crystal, while pressed and ground glass were represented in many attractive forms.

That the display of cut glass was fascinating to the feminine eye was evidenced by a remark made by Mrs. Van Dorn to her dear friend as they looked at the presents.

"I almost wish I were a few years older, that I might have my crystal wedding," said she with the suspicion of a sigh; which goes to show that the love for dainty glassware is strong in every woman's heart.

"I am truly glad that your fifteenth anniversary does not come very soon, my dear," said her friend with a smile; "for I should straightway become a financial wreck if I had to buy a second present for a crystal wedding."

A China Wedding.

"BEAUTIFUL!"

"Lovely!"

"Exquisite!"

"How odd!"

Then four feminine heads bent closely over a small plaque which was made of celluloid, I think, but which very closely resembled delicate porcelain. Upon the rim of this pretty ornament several fat cupids disported themselves in the regulation manner amid garlands of roses, and in the center was the following invitation lettered in gold:

1874.

Mr. and Mrs. McAdam
desire the honor of your good
company on the twentieth anniversary
of their marriage, at nine o'clock,
Thursday evening,
June twenty-first,

1894.

The plaque had come in a neat leatherette box, and it was accompanied by Mrs. McAdam's card, on which was written this suggestion:—

If agreeable to Miss Holmes and visitors, they will please represent in their costumes the characteristic colors of certain makes of pottery or porcelain.

"It is going to be a beautiful affair, girls, you can depend upon that," announced Lida impressively to her guests. "This is the first entertainment the McAdams have given since moving into their new home. They live in that handsome house I pointed out to you when we were driving yesterday afternoon—the large one, you will remember, built of stone and brick, and with a spacious lawn surrounding it."

"Oh, yes," responded one of the visitors, "I remarked at the time what a lovely place it would be for an entertainment, little dreaming that I would be invited there on the morrow. I hope we shall be able to attend."

Then the all-important question entered all their minds at once, and they said in concert "what are we to wear?"

"It seems," said Lida, carefully reading Mrs. McAdam's card, "that we are each expected to dress in a manner to suggest some especial kind of pottery, although I must frankly confess I do not quite understand how that is to be done. I might go in that Summer-before-last silk of mine; it might come under the head of ancient ware."

"Well, I elect to go as a piece of Wedgewood, to be handled with care," cried Alice gaily. "I shall wear my blue silk, which is of the required shade, with a white lace over-dress. The lace will fairly represent the delicate white traceries on blue grounds which have helped to give Wedgewood its deserved fame."

"That is a good idea," admitted Lida; and then she added; "As you are a blonde, Lillian, and have a lovely new ivory satin, I suggest you go as an example of Royal Worcester. That hand-embroidered scarf you have would make an exquisite panel for the skirt."

"And what will you represent?" asked Lillan.

"Being a brunette," replied Lida, "I must choose some brilliant ware. How would it do to represent Egyptian pottery? I could have a flowing Nile-green robe, to which I might add a hand-

painted border showing the lotus flower and leaf. Don't you think that would be suggestive of some Egyptain pottery, and perhaps, recall to mind Egypt's famous queen?"

"Undoubtedly," replied Lisette; "but I give you warning that I will outshine you all."

"Then you will surely be very thoroughly disguised," interposed Lillian.

"I am going as an example of old Satsuma," continued Lisette, unheeding the interruption. "I shall wear the very loveliest Japanese costume you ever beheld. It is marvellously embroidered by hand with dragons, butterflies, chrysanthamums, cherry-blossoms, etc., done in such gorgeous silks and such brilliant gold threads that it rivals any Satsuma vase or plaque in richness of color as well as in intricacy of design. A cousin of mine purchased this exquisite robe while visiting Japan, and she has offered me the use of it at any time. I shall certainly avail myself of her kindness on this occasion, and will write to her at once to send the gown to me. Of course, I will impersonate a Japanese lady as accurately as possible, and will arrange my head gear in characteristic fashion."

For the next two weeks the peculiarities of the various celebrated makes of porcelain and pottery were the most important topics of discussion among those who were fortunate enough to have received invitations to the china wedding. Samian, Egyptian, Assyrian, Phœnician, Grecian, Roman, Persian, Satsuma, Sevres, Meissen, Royal Worcester, Wedgewood, Limoges, Chelsea, Delft, Doulton, Cauldon, etc., became household words; and dull reds, blues, greens and yellows were in as great demand in wearing fabrics as the more brilliant colors that potters have, from time to time, succeeded in perpetuating in their creations.

Consultations innumerable were held in boudoirs, shops and the show-rooms of dress-makers and milliners, and dealers in china and porcelain were kept busy from morning till night showing their beautiful wares to critical purchasers of presents, each of whom selected, if possible, one or more specimens of the pottery or china that was to be represented by her gown.

The time set for the wedding proved a fortunate choice, for it was a typical June evening and provided a fitting setting for the beautiful picture presented to the guests at "Woodlawn," the McAdam's lovely country home.

A row of Chinese lanterns stretched on each side of the carriage drive from the entrance gates to the *porte cochère*, and similar lanterns dotted the lawn and outlined the porches. From the four sides of the tower gleamed broad pathways of light provided by as many locomotive headlights, which had been hired for the occasion; and the large windows, affording glimses of the radiance within and permitting subdued strains of music to break upon the stillness of the night, helped to produce a scene that seemed like a bit of fairy-land brought to earth for the occasion.

Crimson was the principal color used in decorating the larger hall. The stair-rail and newel posts were twined with green vines dotted with crimson roses, while tall, gilded baskets heaped with the same brilliant flowers crowned the posts on each landing of the staircase.

In an alcove of the hall that was draped with crimson bunting and vines was a round table, in the center of which stood a large china bowl resting upon a bed of crimson geraniums. The outer edge of the table was followed by a broad band of green leaves, and on this band were placed dainty china cups, in which delicious frozen strawberry punch was served to the guests from time to time by two vivacions, dark-eyed beauties, who were dressed alike in gowns of crimson fish-net, with slippers and long mitts to correspond and wore Jacqueminot roses at their bosoms and amid their black tresses.

The double doors between the parlors were open, but the guests did not enter the back parlor, a band of light-pink and another of light-blue ribbon being stretched across the doorway. The walls and ceilings of these rooms were pale-blue, and the hangings and upholstery were of a slightly darker shade, as were also the carpets, which were covered with crash; and Mrs. McAdam had very tastefully chosen a harmonious tone of pink for the various decorations.

Wax candles burned beneath pink shades, the chandeliers were twined with the lovely asparagus vine and pink roses, and garlands to match ornamented the curtains, mirrors and pictures. The white marble mantels were banked with blue forget-me-nots, among which were the dates "1874—1894" done in pink rose-buds. One of the prettiest features of the decoration was provided by numerous large wreaths of pink roses tied with pink ribbon streamers and suspended on the blue walls.

Mr. and Mrs. McAdam were an attractive couple at all times, but now presented an unusually handsome appearance in court costumes of silk, brocade, velvet and lace. Their hair was powdered to agree with their attire, which was especially effective in the soft light that pervaded the apartments.

When all the members of the party were present the clergyman who had performed the wedding ceremony twenty years before made a graceful little speech, and then read a short but very appropriate poem, called "The China Wedding," which one of the guests had composed for the occasion.

Then four couples, dressed like Watteau shepherds and shepherdesses, executed a wonderfully

pretty rustic dance that Mrs. McAdam had been teaching them in private for the past two weeks; and on its conclusion two cupids untied the ribbons between the parlors and the guests pressed forward to offer their congratulations.

A little later dancing was begun, Mr. and Mrs. McAdam leading off in the first set; and the scene was certainly a gay and brilliant one at the height of the dance. There were a number of very lovely costumes, and all the gowns were odd and picturesque, the ladies having exercised a great deal of ingenuity in devising and carrying out the various schemes of coloring and design that were to represent the different kinds of pottery and porcelain.

Samian ware was suggested by a bright sealing-wax red material showing raised figures in the same color; Assyrian ware, by a brown-and-gold fabric with a border of chariot drivers. Phœnician, by a pale-buff ground with a Grecian border; early Greek, by a red material figured with black; later Greek, by red devices on a black surface; Corinthian, by a black-figured white ground; Sévres, by a combination of ivory-white and gold, with a flowered gauze overdress; early Faenza, by yellow, blue and orange-red, with peacock-feather trimmings; Persian and Chinese jade, by a pale bluish-green gown; Persian lustre, by changeable silk; Italian majolica, by blue-and-yellow flowered silk; Holland Delft, by a union of indigo-blue and white; Chelsea porcelain, by deep-claret red and gold; Minton ware, by a dark-red material decorated with birds and flowers in natural colors; Doulton, by dark olive-green and terra-cotta; and the newly produced golden ware, by a rich dress of yellow satin trimmed with broad bands of burnished gold-leaf.

The men wore costumes that imitated as closely as possible the attire in vogue when the different famous wares were first produced, and certain of them impersonated Luca della Robbia, Palissy, Francis, Grand Duke of Tuscany, Böttcher, Josiah Wedgewood, Kandler, Ivan Antinovitch, Dr. Wall, Frederic II., Louis XV. and other masters and patrons of the potter's art.

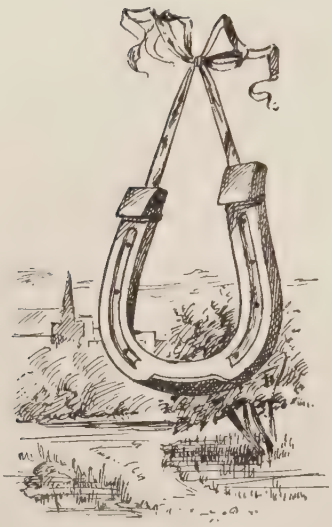
At twelve o'clock supper was served. The decorations in the supper room were in green and yellow. The main table was rectangular in shape, and a smaller square table was placed at each corner. A large square of yellow satin laid on the white damask in the center of each table was edged with smilax and sparingly strewn with delicate sprays of forget-me-nots. On the large table was a beautiful Limoges center-piece that held several generous clusters of fragrant Maréchal Neil roses, and at the center of each small table was a lovely candelabra of Dresden ware containing lighted candles with yellow shades.

The table service was exquisite, for a set of Haviland was included among the presents, together with dozens of miscellaneous dishes showing the most artistic forms and colors; and the supper was as agreeable to the palate as the mode of serving was pleasing to the eye.

The menu was made to correspond in hue with the decorations as far as was practicable, shades of green and yellow appearing in most of the dishes in the several courses. The lettuce salad was served in dainty cups formed of lemon rinds, the orange sherbet was eaten out of pretty baskets cut from orange peels, the lemon and pistachio creams were moulded to represent yellow roses with green leaves, the chocolate cream appeared in the shape of vases, and that flavored with vanilla was formed into dainty figures of men and women that looked like statuettes of Dresden ware.

This china wedding was certainly the most charming entertainment of the kind that it has been my good fortune to attend.

A Silver Wedding.



"YOU are here for the same purpose that I am—come, frankly confess!" cried Miss Maxwell gaily as she met Mrs. Van Buren, her bosom friend, at the door of the silversmith's shop.

"I plead guilty," said Mrs. Van Buren, "although you have not told me in words the nature of your errand. I read it, however, in your face; that look of uncertainty means that you do not know what to choose as a present for the Huguely's on the occasion of their silver wedding."

"You may also read an unchangable determination not to buy a butter-dish, a butter-knife or a souvenir spoon," answered Mrs. Maxwell laughingly. "I think if I were Mrs. Huguely, I should regard it as a personal affront for anyone to give me one of those three articles."

"Do not forbid the souvenir spoon, I beg of you," interposed her friend. "I have only the most grateful consideration for it, since it has been my salvation, financially speaking, during the past year. No less than seven friends of Mr. Van Buren and myself have been married within the last twelve months; and while only one or two were so intimate that we felt we ought to offer something rather handsome, still none of them could be slighted, so that, had not the souvenir spoon been my refuge, I tremble to think what the consequences might have been to my purse."

The few friends were joined by Mr. Lyon, and the three chatted as they examined a variety of articles, until Mr. Lyon purchased a berry-bowl, Mrs. Van Buren a handsome fish-knife, and Mrs. Maxwell an artistic call-bell in the shape of a stork standing on one leg and holding in his bill a suspended silver disk that was to be struck with a tiny mallet.

The occasion of all this expenditure was the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Huguely, which was to be celebrated on the Thursday evening of the following week. The invitations for the entertainment were printed in silver on heavy white paper, and in the left-hand upper corner of each was a silver crescent moon, with the date "1869" uniquely depending from one horn and "1894" from the other. The sheets were folded once and enclosed in silver-edged envelopes, which were tied with white silk cord and silver wire twisted together; and these envelopes in turn were placed in plain white ones, upon which the addresses were written. Enclosed with each invitation was Miss Huguely's card, and also that of Miss Hunt, a charming young girl who was visiting her. Both these cards were also printed in silver.

Mr. Huguely was a man of large means, and he and his wife were great favorites in their social circle, both entering into the amusements and entertainments of young folks with almost as much zest as they did a quarter of a century before. Their daughter Bertha was also very popular with old and young, and it is not to be wondered at that, whenever this charming family announced an entertainment, all their friends should look forward to spending an unusually enjoyable evening.

On this occasion, white, blue and silver were used extensively in decorating the house, and mirrors, of course, played an important part. A novel and appropriate feature was the introduction of the pale-tinted foliage of the silver poplar in the treatment of the large hall. The newel-posts and stair-rails were first covered with sheets of tin-foil, and then twined with garlands of the silvery poplar leaves tied with narrow pale-blue ribbons.

The walls were ornamented in an exceedingly artistic manner. First a high dado was made of squares of wrinkled tin-foil separated by bands of satin ribbon in a darker shade of blue than those used in tying the festoons of leaves. The walls between the top of the dado and the lower edge of the frieze were relieved by a lattice arrangement of pale-blue ribbons, and in each of the diamond-shaped spaces formed by the ribbons was secured a cluster of poplar leaves. The frieze was formed of a broad band of blue sateen upon which were fastened silvered palm-leaf fans that had been split to resemble the leaves of the graceful house palm.

In the center of the hall stood a square fancy table with prettily turned legs and cross-bars,

which was entirely covered with sheets of tin-foil so smoothly arranged that it seemed to be made of burnished silver. The tall, spiral-legged hall chairs, and the grill-work above the staircase and sliding doors were similarly covered with sheets of foil, which were held in place by bows of pale-blue ribbon and decorated with wreaths of poplar leaves.

On the hall table was a large silver tray bearing a handsome silver punch-bowl containing delicious wine sherbet, which the guests drank from dainty silver mugs throughout the evening.

The crescent and dates that appeared on the invitations were reproduced on a larger scale and hung in the center of the stair-well. The crescent was cut from cardboard and covered with silver paper, and was suspended by a silver wire; and the figures in the two dates were strung on wires one beneath another and hung from the tips of the moon. Perched astride of the moon was a cunning little waxen Cupid with an arrow fitted in his bow, ready for game.

The two dates cut from tin, which in some instances was treated to look like frosted silver, were repeated in straight rows across the parlor portières and window curtains, which were all made of pale-blue silk. Blue silk curtains similarly decorated with the dates draped a pretty alcove that was fairly illuminated with artificial palms and foliage plants that seemed to be made of silver. The alcove and curtains were festooned with silvered artificial vines and flowers, which contrasted beautifully with the pale-blue silk; and here the receiving party stood.

Mrs. Huguely wore a handsome gown of silk that had a silvery moonlight sheen, and beautiful moonstone jewelry; and both she and her six youthful attendants had exquisite silver combs in their hair, which was powdered, as was that of all the other ladies present.

Miss Huguely, Miss Hunt, and the four young ladies who assisted them were all attired in silver gauze made up over silk, which was of a different color in every gown—blue, white, pink, pale-green, canary and heliotrope. Each of the girls wore a velvet collarette matching the foundation of her gown and studded with small silver ornaments, such as bees, violets, foreign coins, tiny horse-shoes, four-leaf clovers, and forget-me-nots. The girls carried small bouquets of blossoms corresponding in hue with their collarettes, the flowers being arranged in lovely bouquet-holders of silver filagree that were presents from Mr. and Mrs. Huguely.

The parlor chandeliers were of cut glass and silver, and were twined with silvered artificial leaves and blue flowers; and on the side walls were silver sconces holding candles which burned under silver shades.

Ornamental dried grasses and leaves that had been silvered and sprinkled with diamond dust, and artificial blue and white flowers and silver-leafed vines were used effectively on the mantels and in white-and-silver wicker-work baskets placed on the tables and in the corners.

The floors were covered with crash, and this was lightly sprinkled with silver flakes that glistened as if countless minute particles of silver were under foot.

The supper room was almost wholly decorated in white, blue and silver. From a large, silvered full moon in the center of the ceiling radiated draperies of blue gauze sprinkled with silver stars, and a frieze was made of a band of similar gauze looped up with silver crescents.

The windows were hung with gauze draped from cornices formed of moons and stars, and the mantel-shelf was beautified by handsome silver baskets filled with white and blue flowers, and with many-branched silver candelabra holding wax candles. On the mantel-mirror of this room, and also on those in the parlor were posted the two dates cut from silver leaf.

Upon the walls several pale-blue silk banners trimmed with silver fringe were suspended by silver cords, and upon them were quotations regarding marriage done in quaint silver lettering. These sentiments were taken from Shakespere and were as follows:

"So smile the heavens upon this holy act,
That after-hours of sorrow chide us not."

"For by your leaves you shall not stay alone,
Till holy church incorporate two in one."

"Now tell me how long you would have her,
after you have married her?"

"For ever and a day."

The supper table had a top fitted to it that was in the shape of a crescent moon, and was set diagonally across the room. This board was covered with white damask, and in the center was a smaller crescent-shaped cloth of blue satin edged with silver lace.

A circular mirror was placed at the center of the blue crescent, and upon it was a silver stand holding a pyramidal heap of cake that was beautifully iced, and decorated with white satin flowers and silver leaves. The cake was surmounted by a miniature Gothic temple in white and silver, in which a tiny Cupid was ensconced.

The circular mirror was bordered by a band of silvered artificial roses and leaves, and on each side of this central piece was a crescent-shaped mirror supporting a silver swan-shaped boat, which was fitted with delicious bonbons.

Of course, all the silver dishes included among the presents were utilized in setting the table, and as the gifts were both numerous and handsome, the board presented a most beautiful and brilliant appearance with its artistic burden of silver, china and cut-glass.

The menu was exquisitely served, and was ingeniously chosen to be quite in keeping with the occasion and the surroundings, among the edibles presented being Blue Point oysters on the half-shell, silver fish, sardines, silver pheasants, silver cake and ices moulded in crescent shapes and wrapped in silver foil.

The fruit was also served in foil every banana, peach, pear and orange, and even every grape in the clusters, being carefully wrapped in a thin silvery coating. This course was presented on silver trays, which were decorated with silvered artificial leaves of a shape to correspond with the kind of fruit offered.

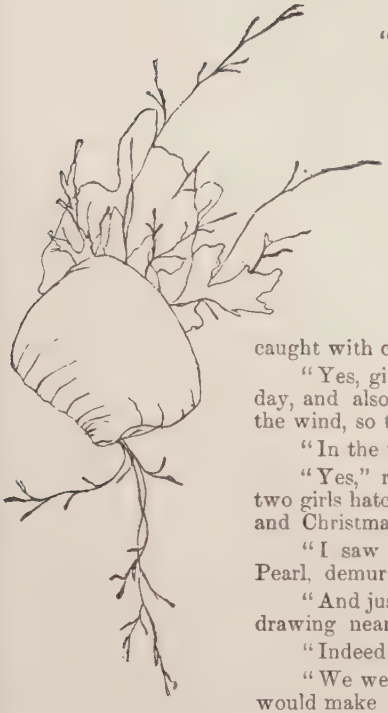
After supper the young folks gathered round the table, and the "fortune cakes" were brought in. These were small, heart-shaped cakes covered with silver foil, and they were passed among the company in a pretty bag, from which each young lady drew one and immediately broke it open to discover her "fortune."

In one of them was a silver ring, signifying that the finder would be the first to marry; in another a silver thimble, meaning that the recipient would marry a poor man; in a third a silver coin, promising a rich husband; in a fourth a small silver heart, predicting a marriage for love; in a fifth a small silver key, denoting a wedding for position; and in a sixth a cat's head, signifying no marriage at all, but the dire fate of an old maid.

The drawing of these "fortune cakes" caused much merriment and jollity among the young folks, while the older ones looked on with scarcely less appreciation of the fun. Bertha drew the silver heart, but she adroitly concealed it, only showing it surreptitiously to a certain handsome young fellow who was employed in her father's office.

Either there must be something in the superstition, or else the young man must have taken courage from this incident and come to understand that "faint heart ne'er won fair lady"; for in a few months he and Bertha were married, and "lived happy ever after," as they say in the fairy stories.

A Pearl Wedding.



"DO take this easy chair; it is much more comfortable than that straight-back one," said Isabel to her father, pushing the chair toward him.

"I will bring you your slippers; I know you must be tired," said Pearl concernedly, going in quest of the foot-gear mentioned.

"Have you been quite well to-day?" asked Isabel.

"Has it been a very busy day?" inquired Pearl.

Then Isabel kissed the little bald spot on top of her father's head, and Pearl give his ruddy cheeks an affectionate tap.

But *père* Vandine was a wise old bird, not to be caught with chaff.

"Yes, girls," he said, "your paternal parent has been quite well to-day, and also quite busy; and, now he would like to inquire what's in the wind, so to speak."

"In the wind?" repeated Pearl innocently.

"Yes," replied Mr. Vandine. "In other words what plot are you two girls hatching against your poor old father? It cannot be seal-skins, and Christmas is a little too far away. Come, now, frankly confess."

"I saw such a lovely pearl necklace at Newgold's to-day," said Pearl, demurely nestling by his side.

"And just an exquisite brooch and pair of earrings," remarked Isabel, drawing nearer to his chair.

"Indeed!" answered Mr. Vandine obtusely.

"We were just saying when you came in what a lovely present they would make for mother," remarked Isabel.

"And pray what occasion is there just at present for giving your mother a set of pearls?"

"Well, you know the eighteenth of next month will be the thirtieth anniversary of your marriage," said Isabel.

"So it will," said Mr. Vandine. "How time does fly, to be sure."

"The thirtieth anniversary is the time for the pearl wedding," continued Isabel.

"And we were thinking how nice it would be to celebrate it," remarked Pearl.

Then Pearl sat upon her father's knee, and Isabel leaned over the back of his chair and put her plump arms about his neck, and—well, the rest is easily guessed. His heart softened, and when finally, under a shower of kisses, he consented to talk the matter over with their mother, the girls knew that this was but a postponement of capitulation, and that victory had crowned their efforts.

And so it proved. When the subject came up for discussion in the privacy of the inner domestic circle, Mrs. Vandine, who was the first to mention it, declared that, while not urging the matter, she could not help admitting that a pearl wedding would be very nice indeed, and would enable the girls to cancel most of their obligations to their friends.

"I am positively ashamed," she said, "to have them accept any more invitations while they owe so many. It does not look right, you know. There are the McAllisters, who have given two handsome entertainments within the past six months; but, of course, Mr. McAllister is an unusually successful business man and can well afford to give handsome entertainments."

"Humph! I don't suppose his income is any larger than mine, possibly not so large," grunted Mr. Vandine. "Of course, if you would like to give an entertainment, why, do so. Only have it a creditable one, and be sure to invite the McAllister girls."

Mrs. Vandine like a dutiful wife, obeyed. She had not lived these thirty years with her liege lord without discovering a few of his vulnerable points.

A few weeks later invitations were sent out announcing the coming event in the following terms:

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Vandine
At Home,
Tuesday evening, October eighteenth,
Eighteen hundred and ninety-three.

Oscar Vandine. *Rose Antwerpt.*

1863—1893.

The invtiations were handsomely engraved on fine, heavy paper having a lustrous, pearly finish; and with each were enclosed two cards, one inscribed "Miss Vandine," and the other, "Miss Isabel Vandine," so that not only the married friends of the family were invited, but also the youthful set in which the daughters moved.

Pearl and Isabel were bright girls with considerable originality and artistic taste, and Mrs. Vandine wisely left the details of the wedding to them, contenting herself with a general supervision.

Isabel painted very prettily in both oil and water colors, and among her friends were several girls who were quite as skilful with the brush, and whose services she secured to aid her in arranging certain features of the proposed entertainment. When not engaged in this direction, she and Pearl, escorted by some young man of their acquaintance, were frequently to be seen in the vicinity of the wharves, interviewing groups of fishermen or inspecting the varied contents of some junk-shop; and queer-looking parcels and strange articles were constantly arriving at the home of Mr. Vandine, to the great wonderment of its mistress. The climax of her amazement was at last reached when certain bundles of sail-cloth and several pairs of oars were delivered at the house, and she could restrain her curiosity no longer.

"Girls, girls," she said, "what use can you possibly find for all the rubbish that you have been accumulating for the past week or two?"

"Now do be patient a little longer, mother," answered Isabel, "and you will discover the 'method in our madness.'"

With the aid of a carpenter, and a young man of aesthetic tastes who was a near neighbor and an intimate friend of the tamily, the girls went to work, and soon the "method" became apparent.

The hall was first to undergo treatment. A dado of sail-cloth was arranged upon the walls and finished at the top with a rope fastened to a thin strip of wood that was secured temporarily in the desired position. Large fish nets were hung upon the walls from the dado almost to the ceiling, and in their meshes were placed sponges, bunches of sea-weed, and a variety of shells, many of which were arranged with their brilliant pearly linings showing. A frieze was composed of a narrow seining material showing finer meshes than the nets and caught up in graceful folds at irregular intervals over conch-shells that were fastened to a second strip of wood near the ceiling.

Several fine marine views, some of them loaned by friends, were hung upon the walls, and the frames were artistically draped with small fish-nets, bunches of sea-weed, branches of coral and curious sponges. Crossed oars were arranged over the doorways, and above them were various strange-looking mounted fishes. On a pedestal in the center of the hall was a small but perfectly equipped sail-boat, which, as well as many of the other articles used in decorating the hall, had been hired for the occasion. The stair-rail was prettily draped with fish nets and cordage arranged over some dark-green material.

In the handsome parlors, pearl-gray, pale sea-green and coral-pink were the most promiment tints. The walls and ceilings were of a pearl-gray shade, and draperies of pale sea-green China silk were disposed upon them in graceful festoons that were held by pearly shells and bunches of pink coral. This coral, by-the-bye, was igeniously made by dipping bunches of knotted twine having ends of different lengths into pink sealing-wax, and allowing the latter to harden, the result being a very close imitation of real coral.

The bay-window in the front drawing-room was framed by a beautiful arch composed of a wooden structure draped with pale-green silk and decorated with coral, shells and sea-weed. Mr. and Mrs. Vandine and their two daughters stood in the recess just back of this arch to receive their guests.

The chandeliers, which were of crystal, were tastefully decorated with shells, garlands of delicate sea-weed and branches of genuine white coral, and the lights were softened by pink shades. A clever arrangement of side lights greatly enhanced the beauty of the scene. Single and grouped conch-shells were suspended upon the walls, and in them were fastened small electric lights under pink globes that produced a soft and tender glow.

The mantels were banked with coral, shells and sea-weed; and portières of pale-green silk between the parlors were decorated at the bottom with rich painted borders of sea-weed and coral,

while across an upper corner of each was painted a stretch of net in which some gold-fish were entangled.

But ingenious and unique as were the decorations in the hall and parlors, the treatment of the supper room was even more striking in effect and more suggestive of the home of the pearl. The walls were hung with sea-green paper cambric arranged with the glazed surface outward, and upon this background Isabel and her friends had painted grottoes, arches of coral and shells, and groves of sea-weed, among which mermaids, fishes and other inhabitants of the deep were disporting themselves. A projecting strip of wood about two inches wide was placed upon the walls near the ceiling, and from it were hung curtains of sea-green gauze that effectively veiled the painted scenes, giving them an indistinct appearance as though seen through an intervening mass of sea water.

The ceiling was also covered with green gauze, and vague forms of fishes and other denizens of the sea were seen above it. These forms were cut from gold or silver paper and touched up with the artist's brush; and similar figures were suspended by invisible threads between the gauze and cambric on the walls, the slightest breath of air causing them to very realistically move to and fro.

The mode of lighting the dining-room was very clever and was suggested by Pearl. Electric lights in sea-green globes were placed here and there beneath the gauze upon the ceiling and along the top of the walls, and a cluster of them were arranged directly above the table, so that it seemed as though the light of day were being filtered through the green waters of the ocean.

Long sections of net made of green or silver tinsel were used to conceal the windows and doors and drape the mantel, adding not a little to the beauty of the general effect.

The table was quite in keeping with the occasion and its surrondings. Over the white damask was spread a net of silver tinsel, and down the center was laid a broad scarf of sea-green satin edged with lace. A large round mirror was laid in the middle of the table, and at each end was a smaller glass of oblong shape. On the round mirror was an exquisite grotto of coral and shells, at the four corners of which stood mermaids blowing conch-shells, while the top was crowned by a figure of Neptune holding aloft his trident.

In the center of the grotto, and seen through its various arches, was a small illuminated aquarium containing gold fish that floated lazily about in the glowing water. The aquarium was lighted by a small electric globe dropped from the ceiling by means of fine wires that were scarcely visible in the subdued light of the room.

The grotto had been made by the ingenious young man and the carpenter, and was quite simple in its construction, being formed of a wooden box thickly coated on the outside with putty, into which were pressed numerous shells, pebbles, pieces of coral and sprays of sea-weed. The various ornaments adhered very firmly when the putty had hardened. The statuettes of Neptune and the mermaids were hired from a dealer in china.

On each of the oblong mirrors was placed a pretty piece of Dresden china representing a scollop-shell boat drawn by swans, the boat being laden with "Pearl of the Garden" roses.

The mirrors were edged with sea-weed, and small shells, bunches of coral, sand-stars, and two or three lobsters, seemingly alive, were scattered over the green scarf. Here and there a tiny fairy lamp burned in a cup of blue, pink green, red or yellow glass, sending forth colored rays of light like the glow of some lost jewel on the ocean's bed.

At each guest's plate was a souvenir, in the shape of a dainty shell, on which was painted a small sea view, a spray of sea-weed or a brief quotation concerning the sea or its pearls, together with the date of the entertainment.

The menu included as many products of the sea and stream as possible. First there were Blue Point oysters on the half-shell. In the center of each plate on which the shells were placed was a cup made of half a lemon rind and containing grated celery mixed with lemon juice. Crackers in the shape of pearl oyster-shells were served with this course. Then came green-turtle soup presented in shell-shaped cups, shrimp salad on water-cresses, canvas-back duck, mushroom timbales, crescent rolls, lobster croquettes, olives, maraschino punch, salted almonds, ices served in the form of sea-shells, fruit and coffee.

A string band concealed in an alcove played throughout the evening such appropriate selections as "Witch of the Waves," "Shower of Pearls," "Over the Waves," "Cascade of Pearls," "Siren's Waltz," "Shells of Ocean,' and several numbers from Wagner's "Das Rheingold."

Mr. Vandine was clad in the regulation dress suit, including a pearl-tinted satin waistcoat; and his wife wore a lovely gown of dark sea-green silk trimmed with rich old lace, and pearl jewelry.

The elder daughter was dressed in heavy pearl satin and wore a handsome set of pearls, among them being the necklace she had so strongly desired; and her sister, who had a fair complexion and golden hair, was most becomingly arranged in a toilette of pale-green satin, with pink coral jewelry. The girls carried bunches of exquisite sea-weed bleached and seeded with pearl beads.

A Ruby Wedding.

"MY dear child, it is perfectly ridiculous to think of an old woman like me celebrating her forfortieth wedding anniversary. Your grandfather would rebel outright."

"Not after I had coaxed him into giving his consent," answered Ruby confidently.

"Well, perhaps not," admitted her grandmother rather reluctantly; "for I know you have a way of convincing folks that black is white when you set your mischievous head to do so. The only *Ruby* wedding that I desire to celebrate is your own, my dear child, and I hope it may be soon," added the old lady, patting her grandaughter's plump cheek affectionately.

"That may never come to pass," persisted Ruby, "so we must take advantage of the present opportunity as the only one of which we are certain."

"But it really is preposterous," said the grandmother. "If it was your mother and father, now—"

"But is isn't," interrupted Ruby with a decided little gesture. "I want you and grandfather to observe *your* ruby wedding. If I were to wait until father and mother had been married forty years, I should doubtless be an old married woman myself by that time, or else a confirmed old maid, bestowing all my affections on a bird or a cat."

"Well, be very careful, my child, to bestow your love on a worthy object when the time comes," answered the grandmother warningly. "The young men, it seems to me, are very different nowadays from what they were when I was a girl."

"I know some that are very nice," said Rbby demurely, and then she added: "But, grandmother, that is not the subject under discussion. We were speaking of celebrating your ruby wedding. I heard grandfather say only yesterday that the fortieth anniversary of your marriage would be just three weeks from to-day. Think how stately you would look in a ruby velvet gown trimmed with some of your beautiful old lace. With your lovely white hair done up in puffs, you would make a picture that an artist would love to paint!" cried Ruby enthusiastically.

One must be very old indeed, if one's vanity cannot be reached by some means, and doubtless Ruby was well aware of this fact, for she had a wise little head, though it was on very youthful shoulders. Still, there was really no deception in her words, her innocent praise being perfectly justifiable. Her grandmother was a very handsome, stately dame, and Ruby admired her extravagantly and was shrewd enough to know that this was a good time to express her admiration.

"My only objection to giving such an entertainment," said the grandmother thoughtfully, "is that I am growing too old to properly supervise the arrangements."

"You need not worry about the arrangements at all," answered Ruby. "I will attend to all the details, and you will have nothing to do but look stately, like some ancient lady in a portrait. When mother comes, she will even attend to preparing suitable costumes for you and grandfather, and she will afford me whatever other help I need, while you will simply look on and give us the benefit of your good judgment now and then."

"Well, well, you can see what your grandfather thinks at luncheon. If he consents, I have nothing further to say, except that you and your mother must manage the whole affair. I wash my hands of it entirely."

"Ruby was only too willing to agree to this condition, and after giving her grandmother a perfect shower of kisses, she danced gaily out of the room, knowing full well, as did also the object of this outburst of affection, that her doting grandfather was but as pliant wax in her hands whenever she chose to besiege him with her smiles and caresses.

That her coaxing produced its usual results in this instance, was proved by the appearance, a few days later, of invitations which informed the venerable couple's numerous friends that the ruby wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Hall would be celebrated on the sixteenth of October, which was two weeks from the day on which the cards were issued. The cards, by-the-bye, were made of semi-transparent celluloid in a rich ruby tint, and the printing upon them was done in gold.

According to Ruby's promise, Mrs. Hall had little to do but allow herself to be arrayed in her ruby velvet gown decorated with rich old lace, which was an heirloom and was destined to enrich the wedding robe of the granddaughter; and by dint of much persuasion and coaxing—it nearly bankrupted even Ruby's large stock of those commodities—, Mr. Hall was induced to dress in the picturesque costume of that artistic period when knee-breeches, velvet coats, silk hose and brilliant shoe-buckles made masculine attire quite as attractive as that worn by women. Ruby's diplomacy was here brought once more into play, for she made it a strong point in her argument with her grandfather, that he should dress thus in order to show the present generation of young fellows how handsome an old man could be, and also how much superior in point of beauty the antique dress was to the new. On the latter score I think she was entirely correct, for if there was ever a more inartistic costume devised for man than the modern "evening suit," I have been mercifully spared a sight of it.

Ruby's mother wore a wine-colored silk; while Ruby was charming in a white satin gown, with necklace and bracelets of the glowing gems whose name she bore, and carried in her hand a cluster of beautiful dark-red roses that seemed to have caught the glow of her jewels within their fragrant hearts.

The color scheme followed in decorating the house was most effective. In the hall, a large central light suspended from the ceiling was agreeably softened by a ruby-colored globe, and about this light a star shaped design was formed with ruby-hued fairy lamps. Similar lamps were hung in an artistic arrangement up the staircase, and others were secured on a wire structure against the wall to form the following legend:

1894.

The Ruby Wedding.

1854.

The doors and windows of the parlor were outlined with these tiny, jewel-like lamps, and in the open space above the folding doors the two dates and the name of the anniversary were formed as in the hall. The two mantel-shelves were banked with white carnations, and the dates were wrought with dark-red carnations in the soft backgrounds thus formed.

Growing plants of these fragrant, graceful flowers were used generously throughout the parlors —against the mirrors and window curtains, upon trellises reared along the walls, on pretty brackets, and on the various tables and stands.

A sort of bow window at the rear of the back-parlor was fitted up by Ruby in a novel and ingenious manner. A light frame trellis was built around the end walls, and was so constructed that it projected five or six feet into the room, with a lattice overhead like an arbor. Over this entire structure were trained numerous wild grape-vines, which had been procured from the woods that day and were twined about the walls and arbor in a very realistic manner, their lower ends being thrust into jars of damp earth to keep the leaves from wilting. The branches were hung with tempting clusters of grapes—Concords, Delawares, Catawbas, Marthas and other luscious domestic varieties, and mammoth clusters of Tokays and Malagas. The grapes were arranged with due regard to artistic minglings of colors, and the general effect was one to be long remembered.

In the rear of this arbor were four musicians dressed like Spanish minstrels, who performed serenades and lively Spanish airs and dances upon a violin, guitars and castanets.

At one side of the entrance to the arbor was a pretty table supporting a beautiful wine set of ruby-colored Bohemian glass, and trays of the same rich ware filled with biscuits and fancy cakes. Two of the prettiest and most vivacious brunettes of Ruby's acquaintance presided at this table. They were dressed in bewitching Spanish costumes, one made of yellow satin and black lace, and the other of ruby satin and white lace; and their picturesque toilettes were appropriately completed by high combs, mantillas aud lace fans.

Opposite this table was a narrow rustic one, with bunches to match along one side; and here the guests sat and chatted, while they were served with grapes on wooden trays by two young men, intimate friends of the family, who were dressed in handsome Spanish costumes of bright-hued velvet and satin. The floor beneath the arbor was spread with bright-green grass mats.

After supper these four atttendants led off the dance with a very creditable performance of

"La Cachuca," which was so heartily applauded that it had to be repeated; and then the dancing became general. The last dance was "Sir Roger de Coverly," and its first figures were executed with great spirit by Mr. Hall and his stately dame, neither of whom had entirely lost the grace of movement for which they had been famous in their youth. It has been said that the art of dancing can never be forgotten, and the ease and readiness with which this charming old couple revived their ball-room days amply verified the statement.

Ruby was responsible for the arrangement of the supper-table, and her scheme was both original and pleasing. In the center was a slight mound or pedestal, upon which was placed a candelabrum of ruby-colored and crystal Bohemian glass holding wax candles that burned under ruby-colored shades; and all about the pedestal, and to within two feet of the edge of the long, oval table, was arranged a mass of dark-red geraniums that glowed like a gigantic ruby. This bed of brilliant coloring was bordered by a band of green geranium leaves, upon which the two dates were traced in alternation, with the wedded couple's initials between.

A number of the gifts were of ruby-colored Venetian or Bohemian glass, and where it was practical, these were used in serving the supper. Among the table-ware thus displayed were lovely plates, cups, water glasses and bottles, bowls, ice-cream plates, sherbet-dishes, olive and almond trays, bonbon baskets, salt and pepper boxes and salad-bowls, many of which were exquisitely decorated.

The menu included such delicacies as boned turkey and cranberry jelly, beet salad, lobster in the shell, raspberry sherbet colored to a ruby tint with cochineal, dark-red gelatine served in dainty baskets of orange rind, ruby cream moulded in rose forms, cake marbled with ruby veinings, bright-cheeked pomegranates, blood oranges, tangerines, ruby-skinned apples, red and purple plums and crystallized red cherries.

A bit of sentiment that escaped the general eye was enacted in a shadowy nook of the hall when the dancing was at its height and most of the guests were in the parlors.

"The ruby is my favorite jewel," the girl was saying to a young man who was bending attentively over her.

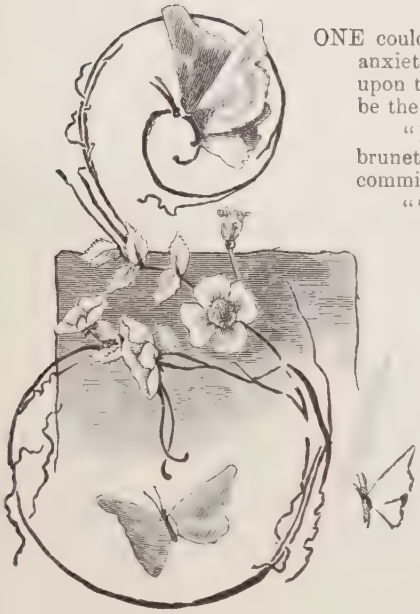
"And it is mine, too," he answered in a low tone.

"There is one *Ruby* I would rather possess than all the other jewels in the world," he added tenderly.

"Isn't this a pretty ruby heart?" she asked evasively, toying with the pendant of her necklace.

"It is not a ruby heart I covet," he answered. "It is Ruby's heart that I long to gain, and its possession would make me the happiest man in all the world."

A Golden Wedding.



ONE could tell that the question was a grave one by the look of anxiety and interest on the faces of the small party gathered upon the lawn, and the conversation that ensued showed it to be the subject which is said to be nearest to the feminine heart.

"I positively haven't anything to wear," said a handsome brunette plaintively. Then silence fell upon her, and a look of commiseration overspread the countenances of the listeners.

"There's your cherry satin gown," suggested one maiden.

"Horrors!" cried the brunette.

"And your black net," ventured another would-be comforter.

"It's a perfect fright!"

"What about your white mull?"

"It has become an antique," responded the dark-eyed beauty.

"Will not the black gauze shot with gold thread do?" asked a blue-eyed damsel.

"I've worn it four times already."

"Well, Lucile, there's nothing left but your yellow silk—wear that. It's a golden wedding, you know."

"Alas! I made that do duty for half the entertainments of last year," moaned the brunette. "I haven't the courage to impose it on society this season. I suppose I shall have to stay at home."

"Never!" cried the company in unison; then they ejaculated separately:

"It's to be the event of the season!"

"Every one will be there!"

"Don't dream of staying away! You can't afford to miss the golden wedding!"

"Neither can I afford to buy a new gown," Lucile answered. "I wouldn't dare to mention it to father; I can imagine now the look of reproach he would give me. And then I want a seal-skin sacque this Autumn, too; it would lose me that, I am confident."

"Well, why not get up a combination costume?" suggested a member of the party hopefully.

"The white mull and the black net, for instance," said Lucile laughingly.

"How ridiculous you are!" cried the first speaker. "I was thinking of the yellow silk and the gauze with the thread of gold in it."

"Now that would really be a lovely combination, and a very becoming one, too," added another.

"I wonder if it would be possible to make any sort of a costume out of those materials," said Lucile reflectively.

"Just a beautiful one. You couldn't wish anything prettier."

"Girls, let us take a look at the dresses, and then you can offer suggestions," said Lucile.

The direct cause of this animated confab was the arrival, the day before, of a square envelope tied with a yellow silk cord ending in tassels, and containing a card edged with gold and printed in gilt, announcing the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald.

This charming couple lived in a tastefully furnished home that was sufficiently large to accommodate the goodly company invited to help celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding.

Their parlors were decorated in white and gold, with large mirrors in gilded frames between the windows and over the mantels, and were therefore admirably suited for a golden wedding.

As golden October was the month, the chrysanthemum and golden-rod naturally figured extensively in the floral ornamentations.

In the hall the newel-posts and stair-rails were hidden by a mass of golden-rod and yellow maple

leaves, the chimney shelf was banked with the poet's yellow flower, and the fire-place was filled with maple leaves.

Exquisite branches of the leaves were hung over the doorways and windows, and tall, gilded wicker baskets holding great clusters of leaves and spikes of golden-rod stood here and there.

The portières between the parlors and hall were a unique and pretty feature of the decorations. They were made of yellow leaves strung by their stems on fine black thread. The strings of leaves were hung not too close together, and swayed and trembled with every passing breath. Ropes of smilax draped these picturesque portières back.

On a blank space of the wall were the following dates in large letters formed of yellow leaves:

October 12*th.*

1843. 1893.

Underneath the dates were two hearts formed of crimson leaves pierced by an arrow of yellow ones.

In the parlors white and yellow chrysanthemums were seen, and beneath a beautiful arch made of these flowers, and bearing the dates "1843–1893," stood Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald.

Each was dressed in a costume as nearly like the one worn at the wedding fifty years before as it was possible to make it. Indeed, the rich lace and the embroidered front of Mrs. McDonald's gown were the very same that she had used on that memorable occasion, while the flowered waist-coat of her husband's costume was the identical one beneath which his manly heart had fluttered when he had captured his fair bride half a century before.

Standing near their former master and mistress were Uncle Jake and Aunt Dilsey, who had been present at the original wedding, the one as valet, the other as waiting-maid. Both were gorgeous in holiday attire, and beaming with happiness and pride at the place of honor allotted them.

The mantel-pieces in the parlors were banked with cut chrysanthemums, white and yellow, and garlands to match were hung on the walls, the window curtains and the chandeliers.

Splendid potted chrysanthemums were placed about the rooms and grouped in corners, and wax candles burned under white and yellow shades, throwing a golden radiance over the scene.

The table was an artistic study in green, white and gold.

Down the center of the white cloth was a broad scarf of green satin, strewn with white and yellow rosebuds. The china, which was white and gold, was placed on squares of green satin, and in the center of the board was a lovely cut-glass bowl filled with exquisite roses and set on a square of yellow satin edged with rich lace.

At each guest's plate was a white satin ribbon bearing in gold lettering the following inscription:

1843. *Golden Wedding.* **1893.**

Oct. 12*th.*

Alicia Van Deering.

James F. MacDonald.

"You to a love that your true faith doth merit."

The supper was delightful, and in harmony with the occasion.

The first course consisted of grated celery sprinkled with lemon juice and served in half a lemon rind, and a yellow egg salad placed in the other half. There was also an oblong slice of toasted and buttered bread sprinkled with Edam cheese, and a square sandwich made of very thin and dainty slices of bread and filled with minced sardines dressed with mustard.

The second course included slices of calf's-foot jelly in which bits of chicken and tiny stars and half-moons of orange and lemon peel were moulded, slices of frozen yellow tomatoes served with mayonnaise, beaten biscuit spread with caviar, and slices of turkey with sparkling lemon jelly. A rather tart orange sherbet, eaten from half an orange rind, accompanied this course; but a lemon sherbet would have been equally appropriate.

The third course was peach cream moulded in the form of a peach on a green leaf of *pistache* ice. This was eaten with gold-cake. Then came coffee and bananas.

The presents were beautiful, and some of them costly and elegant. There were gold coffee and orange spoons of exquisite shape and design; ladles, bowls, goblets and salvers; and numerous costly trifles such as the goldsmith's art alone can produce.

And thoroughly enjoying it all, and quite as handsome as any in the merry throng, was Lucile, in her combination gown that had been evolved from the yellow silk and the gold-shot gauze.

A Diamond Wedding.

"WHO of the present company ever attended a diamond wedding?" asked Mrs. Mallow of the members of the sewing society gathered in her parlor.

For a short period there was silence—I call attention to this fact because there were fully sixteen women present—and then a member said:

"Well, I have a friend whose mother told her of a lady of her acquaintance whose aunt once went to a diamond wedding."

"That is what might be called traditionary evidence that such things *do* occur," answered Mrs. Mallow laughingly.

"I know of a much less remote case than that," Mrs. Maxey announced. "My grandmother attended a diamond wedding only a few years ago. I have heard her describe it on several occasions, and the incidents were really quite interesting."

"Do tell us about it!" cried Mrs. Berwin; and this request being seconded, Mrs. Maxey at once complied.

"The anniversary was celebrated," said she, "by a couple who lived in the neighborhood where my grandmother had spent her childhood and youth, and whom she had known all her life. There were five generations of the family gathered together for the occasion, the oldest representative being ninety-four and the youngest a baby of six months; and the descendants made in themselves a goodly company, to say nothing of the many neighbors and acquaintances who attended to wish the aged couple every joy in their remaining years.

"The old people lived with their grandson, himself a man past fifty; and the room in which they received their guests had been furnished and decorated to accord as nearly as possible with the fashions that prevailed at the beginning of the century, for which purpose all the relics and heirlooms in the neighborhood had been diligently collected.

"The floor was bare, save for a few strips of rag-carpet laid before the open fire-place, near which the couple sat side by side upon an antique wooden settle. In one corner stood a tall, old-fashioned clock showing a jolly-faced full moon peering between two hemispheres, a large spinning-wheel and a small one were set against the wall, a set of winding-blades occupied another corner, and in still another there was a tall chest of drawers with a diminutive looking-glass on top. High-backed chairs and old-time rockers were distributed about the apartment, and the youngest member of the family nestled in a quaint wooden cradle that had rocked the venerable bride in her long-past infancy.

"There was also a corded bedstead, with tall, hand-turned posts of cherry; and the huge feather-bed was covered with a bright-hued calico quilt that had been made over seventy-five years before by the bride's aunt, who had given it to her niece on her marriage. The blankets and sheets were also of domestic make, having been woven by the bride and her mother from home-raised wool and cotton that was carded and spun by their own industrious hands.

"On the wall were the groom's trusty rifle and powder-horn, which had largely helped to supply the larder in bygone days; and numerous other relics of the past were placed about the room and hung upon the walls, and afforded both amusement and instruction to the young folks present, who had previously been ignorant of their uses and appearance.

"Among the miscellaneous articles were quaint candlesticks, snuffers and trays, tallow candles, candle moulds, wires for dipping candles, dinner-horns made of tin and sea-shells, plaster-of-Paris vases showing wonderfully made and colored fruits, images of pink and yellow cats, a wall coffee-mill, cedar churns and piggins, gourd dippers, hand wool-cards, massive shovels and tongs, several old-time framed samplers that were worked by the bride in her girlhood, and bright-colored wood-cuts which were considered gems of art in their day.

"On a table with a top that was hinged to turn flatly against the wall, was an interesting collection of silhouettes and daguerreotypes, and the usual family library of the long ago, which embraced the Bible, Hymn-Book, Pilgrim's Progress, Fox's Book of Martyrs and Pope's Essay on Man.

"In an antiquated three-cornered cupboard was displayed a most interesting collection of pewter and Britannia ware, glass dishes, and specimens of beautiful blue and flowered china; most of these had been loaned by various families in the neighborhood, and some of the dishes were considerably over a hundred years old."

"How was the bride dressed?" asked a listener who was unable to restrain her curiosity longer on this point. "I am dying to know!"

"Really, I should have begun with that," replied Mrs. Maxey apologetically. "I forgot that it was the most essential bit of information connected with a wedding. The bride wore a perfectly plain gown of rich black silk, and at her throat an old-fashioned brooch containing a lock of curly black hair taken from her husband's head, which had long since been bleached to snowy whiteness; and on her wrinkled hand was her old wedding-ring, now worn to the merest thread. The groom wore a blue cloth coat and trousers, a flowered satin waistcoat, and an enormous black silk stock.

"In all the company there was only one person who had witnessed the first marriage of the venerable couple, and this little man was a year older than the groom, upon which fact he prided himself greatly. He was yet hale and lively as a cricket, and my grandmother said that in offering his congratulations he skipped up to the bride and gave her a hearty kiss, at which the groom remonstrated in humorously feigned jealousy.

"'Now, look here, Ezekiel,' said he, 'I'll overlook it this time, being as she's a young and blushing bride; but I give you fair warning, I don't want to catch you kissing Susan any more.'"

"The wedding dinner was served at noon and embraced many of the dishes that our parents and grand-parents loved when they were young. There were two long tables spread. One was a meat table, on which were offered roast beef, mutton and various fowls, accompanied by light-bread, rye-bread, corn pone, pumpkin bread, apple-butter, currant-jelly, tea, coffee, and milk. On the other table which was called the 'sweet table' were to be found dried peach and cherry tarts, apple and pumpkin pies, gingerbread, sweet cider, float and cup-cake. All these things were furnished in great abundance, and every one was most liberally helped; for in the old days it was the fashion to eat heartily, and no one made a pretext of dining off the breast of a partridge supplemented by a tiny cup of cocoa and a thin wafer."

"But what about the gifts? Were there any diamonds among them?" asked Mrs. Selden.

"No, I think not," answered Mrs. Maxey. "The family were in comfortable circumstances, but not wealthy, and the diamond wedding was one in name only. A great many useful and pretty gifts were offered the old couple, but at their advanced age, jewels were rightly deemed of little moment.

"Grandmother said that before the company separated, the white-haired groom took the wife of his youth by the hand and, leading her to the center of the room, made a really beautiful little speech, in which he referred to the occasion as being his diamond wedding, and said that more precious to him than diamonds or gold or silver was the love of the true, good woman, who for three-quarters of a century, through joys and sorrows, and the many petty trials of life, had proven a constant, faithful companion and crowned his days with happiness. Then the minister asked a blessing on the two old people and the assembled company, and the guests departed with a feeling of gratitude for being permitted to look upon such an example of conjugal happiness."

Materials and Trimmings for Wedding and Bridesmaids' Gowns.

Bridal robes are invested with a certain dignity that even fickle Fashion regards with respect, which she manifests by adhering religiously to the simple style of development which has long been deemed an essential element of a wedding dress, whatever its shape and fabric. This simplicity is required, however, only in the mode of shaping and trimming, since a bridal toilette may be as elegant and costly as the purse will permit.

An unusually large number of textiles for wedding gowns are offered this season, and all are distinguished by that rich, ivory tint which is softer and far more becoming than any other shade of white, and which is quite as suggestive of purity as the clearest white tone. The material *par excellence* is satin Duchesse, which is heavy and stiff enough to "stand alone" and has a peculiar lustre that is all its own. All tastes, however, do not incline to satin, and there are newer fabrics to which the ultra will take more kindly. Satin brocades showing floriations or conventional patterns are truly exquisite, the designs being almost as distinctly visible against the gleaming backgrounds as though they were woven in contrasting colors. Wedding gowns of regal splendor may be made of silver-and-white brocaded satin, but this material will only be selected by women who are rather extreme in their ideas on dress.

The Victoria and cotelé weaves of Bengaline have a considerable following, being now preferred to faille, which was lately so popular for bridal toilettes. Moiré antique and the various other members of the moiré family are also used, and show very artistic markings and shadings. Among the most prominent of this class are moiré arabesque and moiré miroir. In the former the water-marks take the form of great waves that sparkle and glisten down the entire length of the material, while in the latter the markings are vague, shading figures that seem to be reflected upon the lustrous surface, which suggests a polished mirror.

Newer than any of the materials mentioned is *fleur de Suède*, which is closely related to *poult de soie*. It resembles satin on one side and an invisible corded silk on the other, and either side may used. This fabric is as heavy as satin, and will fall quite as handsomely in the folds of a train.

A rich wedding toilette is fashioned from *fleur de Suède* in conjunction with point appliqué lace. The front and sides of the gored skirt fall smoothly, and fulness massed at the back sweeps out into a long train. The bodice is close-fitting and deeply pointed at the front and back, the back being laced at the center. Over the coat-shaped sleeves fall double caps of lace that are gathered at their upper edges to produce a flounce-like appearance; and at the neck is a folded stock collar that closes at the back, the ends being shirred. A Bertha frill of lace is disposed across the bodice above the bust, contributing a dainty and most appropriate decoration.

Plain and embroidered chiffon and *mousseline de soie* made up over satin or silk foundations are much admired for wedding gowns, being especially dainty for youthful brides; and when sumptuous fabrics are not attainable, plain or broché China silk or crêpe may be very properly used.

The assortment of garnitures that are suitable for bridal gowns is rather limited, but considerable latitude is allowed in the matter of disposal. Duchesse lace has been long in vogue for adorning elegant satins and silks and is still largely used, although it is not so popular as point appliqué and round-point laces. *Chiffon* is well liked for trimming, and so are pearl and crystal beaded and embroidered nets, pearl, pearl-and-crystal and satin beaded passementeries, and pearl-and-silver bead passementeries. The last-named trimmings are less expensive than the other passementeries and are produced in both galloons and edges.

Round point lace and pearl passementerie are effectively associated in the decoration of a handsome wedding gown of moiré miroir. The back is cut *en Princesse*, falling in stately folds to the edge of the long train. The fronts present the effect of a short, pointed basque. Upon them are adjusted lapels that are edged with passementerie, and between the lapels a vest is simulated with curved crosswise rows of trimming. The seams in the front of the skirt are concealed by passementerie, and lace bretelles meet in points at the bottom of the waist in front, cross the shoulders and are carried across the back in suggestion of a Bertha frill. At the neck is a crush collar of the material. Lace caps top the *gigot* sleeves, and lace frills fall over the hands from the wrists, which are encircled with pasementerie. Point de Venise and point de Gène laces are available for decorating less costly fabrics than moiré, satin and other silken weaves.

The tulle bridal veil possesses a poetic grace that is lacking in the richer veil of round point or appliqué lace; and as it is much more youthful in effect, it is not difficult to understand the preference displayed for it by the majority of brides. Tulle veils are either three or four yards square,

and their edges are most frequently left unfinished; but when a completion is desired, a five-inch hem is made at the bottom and narrower hems at the other edges, all the hems being secured with silk herring-bone stitching. A tulle veil is very easy to drape, and the manner of its disposal is largely a matter of personal perference. Pearl lace-pins are used wherever fastenings are required, and orange blossoms are wreathed about the head or are arranged in a single cluster.

Cross-strap slippers or Oxford ties of satin, Suède or the dress material are fashionable for brides; and Suède gloves in mousquetaire style are invariably worn.

At a small, informal wedding a gown of white silk-warp crépon or Lansdowne would be in perfect taste. The corsage would, of course, be fashioned with a high neck and long sleeves, and the skirt would be made up without a train.

The bride who prefers to be married in a travelling dress may choose mohair, crépon, serge or cloth in a dainty shade of gray. A hat is always worn with a travelling costume.

Variety is desirable in the attire of the bridesmaids at a ceremonious wedding. Colored satin, moiré, *fleur de Suède* or Bengaline are appropriate, and each maid may select her own favorite tint. Crêpe de Chine, Canton crêpe, *chiffon* and *mousseline de soie* are much admired for their daintiness. The crêpes may be of various hues, but the tissues will usually be white, made up over foundations in different colors.

A very artistic gauze of recent production shows wide bayadère stripes of crinkled silk. The grounds are white, Nile-green, heliotrope, yellow, blue or light-pink, and in every instance the stripes are white at the center, and colored at the edges to correspond with the gauze. These goods are usually made up over taffeta foundations matching the grounds.

Dresden-striped silk, pointillé taffetas, demi-taffetas and *gros de tour* are shown with cream-white grounds for bridesmaids' costumes. The Dresden-striped silks have, in addition to the tinted satin stripes, straight or waved floral stripes in the dainty Dresden color combinations. Pointillé taffeta is powdered with white satin pin-dots or points that are interrupted by satin stripes, which are yellow, blue, rose, green or heliotrope. Demi-taffeta shows white satin dots of greater circumference, and Pekins of satin palm-leaves in delicate hue. One variety of *gros de tour* is marked with tinted satin stripes separated by traceries of minute blossoms and foliage; and another kind presents graduated colors, satin stripes, and occasional fine white satin lines.

The last-mentioned material is a great favorite and was chosen by the five maids at a recent fashionable wedding; one selected blue stripes, another yellow, a third pink, a fourth heliotrope and the fifth Nile-green, the color scheme thus produced being at once harmonious and brilliant. The yellow-striped costume was worn by a stately brunette, although it would have been equally becoming to a blonde. The skirt just escaped the ground and was of the four-gored order, with all the fulness confined at the back; and a festooned flounce of fine point de Gène lace about a quarter of a yard deep was arranged at the foot. The bodice was a baby waist with a low, round neck. Fulness was introduced at the back and front, and about the waist was passed a crush girdle of the material with shirred ends meeting at the back. From the neck edge fell a Bertha frill of lace a trifle narrower than that on the skirt, and below the belt was arranged another frill in suggestion of a peplum. The sleeves were spherical puffs and were almost met by white Suède mousquetaire gloves. About the coiffure was disposed a yellow ribbon fillet decorated with a tiny yellow tip and an aigrette. All the maids wore ribbon fillets matching the stripes in their gowns, and slippers made of the dress goods. The gloves were white in every instance, but they also could have agreed with the stripes; and Gainsborough hats trimmed with flowers or feathers could have been worn instead of the fillets.

Point de Gène, Venetian point and point appliqué laces, *chiffon* and iridescent bead and colored pearl passementeries are favored decorations for bridesmaids' dresses. When pearl trimmings are used, the tints in the pearls are chosen with regard to the color of the material, strong contrasts being invariably avoided.

Materials and Trimmings for the General Trousseau.

The quality and quantity of the personal linen of a bride depend entirely upon her tastes and means. She may desire a dozen each of every undergarment and the same number of *robes de nuit*, skirts, corset-covers etc., or she may feel that number either inadequate or excessive, and make it more or less according to her individual ideas concerning the matter if she is allowed the liberty of her own ideas. Not all brides are. Said a young bride not long ago—"I do not know what I shall do with all the undergarments mamma insisted on providing for my *trousseau*. I'm sure I shall never live to wear them out, for if I do not die before they are gone they will be so old-fashioned and yellow that I shall not be able to wear them. I didn't want so many, but mamma was brought up to think this part of the *trousseau* should comprise dozens of every thing, and the result is I have "stacks" of things, and they are a perfect nuisance to look after." The little lady is one of the most sensible of girls and has unlimited means at her command; but had she had her own way in planning her *trousseau*, she would not now be burdened with "stacks" of things many of which will very likely represent, in a measure, a waste of money.

In making up these garments, if she does not wish to buy them ready made, the bride elect may choose her materials from fabrics devoted to general underwear, such as fine muslin, longcloth, cambric, Persian lawn, linen lawn, linen and nainsook; and Surah, India and China silks.

If she is observant and inspects the dainty imported *trousseaux* displayed in the shops she will obtain the best idea of appropriate fabrics, such as the fine cambrics and sheer lawns just mentioned. There, also, will she find many pretty ideas as to decoration. The daintier fabrics are made up into garments trimmed with various fine laces such as Valenciennes, Mechlin, Medici, Susette, and point de Paris. The heavier cambrics and muslins are trimmed with embroideries done on harmonizing or corresponding fabrics, and also with the heavier laces, embroidered beading, stitching and tucking. Hem-stitching and drawn-work are seen on many garments, and lace beading in which dainty blue, yellow, pale-blue, pink or white baby ribbon is run, is also a favorate addition above the lace frills etc., on lawn and silken garments.

Silk underwear is much less in demand than it has been. Fashion has dictated a return to the dainty white cotton and linen fabrics of our mothers' days; but she demands more elaborate decoration and of a different class than then prevailed, and the bride of to-day, in preparing her *trousseau*, must be lavish of filmy laces and the fabrics just mentioned.

Every bride elect should decide for herself whether or not her *trousseau* shall vary in texture. Much will depend upon her future husband's financial status, the home he will provide for her and her position in that home. If she will not be able to have servants, a portion of her *trousseau* should be plain and of good wearing texture. If she is to lead a life of idleness, then it will not matter if the *trousseau* is of the daintiest, sheerest of fabrics, or if the laces are as filmy as cobwebs. Neither its renovation nor its endurance will be of any moment to her then.

Patterns Suitable for Bridal Trousseaux.

8713

Basque-Waist. 13 sizes. Bust measures, 28 to 46 inches. Price 1s. or 25 cents.

8723

Trained Costume. 13 sizes. Bust measures, 28 to 46 inches. Price 2s. or 50 cents.

8648

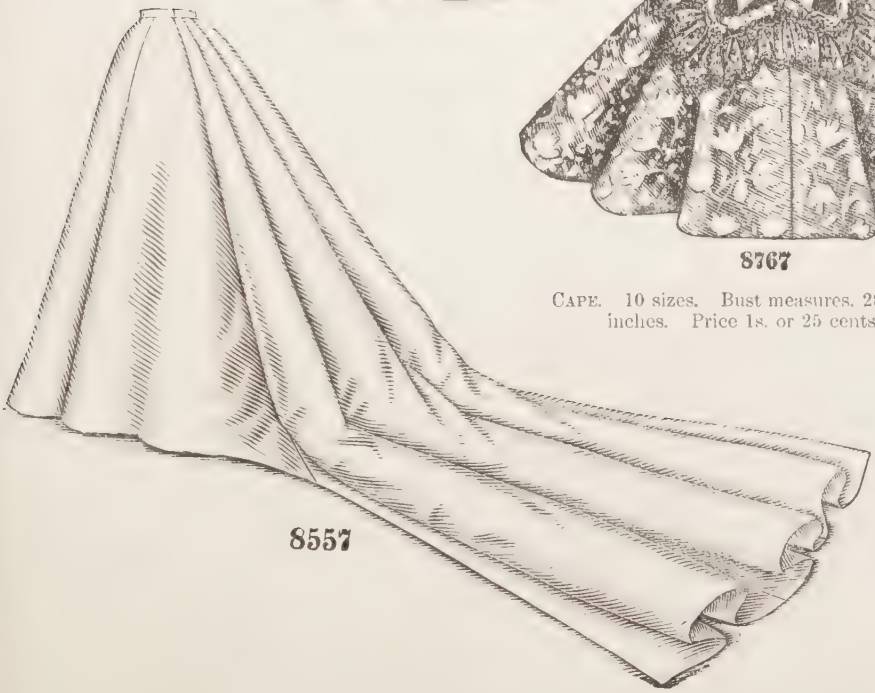
YOKE-WAIST. 13 sizes. Bust measures, 28 to 46 inches. Price 1s. or 25 cents.

8557

TRAINED SKIRT. 9 sizes. Waist measures, 20 to 36 inches. Price 1s. 8d. or 40 cents.

8767

CAPE. 10 sizes. Bust measures, 28 to 46 inches. Price 1s. or 25 cents.



8557

TRAINED SKIRT. 9 sizes. Waist measures, 20 to 36 inches. Price 1s. 8d. or 40 cents.

FIGURE No. 85 Y.—VISITING TOILETTE.—Illustrating Waist No. 8715, 13 sizes. Bust meas., 28 to 46 inches. Price 1s. or 25 cts.; and Jacket No. 8775, 13 sizes. Bust meas., 28 to 46 inches. Price 7d. or 15 cts.

FIGURE No. 82 Y.—GOING-AWAY GOWN.—Illustrating pattern No. 8684; 13 sizes. Bust measures, 28 to 46 inches. Price 1s. 8d. or 40 cents.

FIGURE No. 87 Y.—GOING-AWAY TOILETTE.—Illustrating Skirt No. 8756, 9 sizes. Waist measures, 20 to 36 inches. Price 1s. 3d. or 30 cents; and Cape No. 8767, 10 sizes. Bust meas., 28 to 46 inches. Price 1s. or 25 cts.

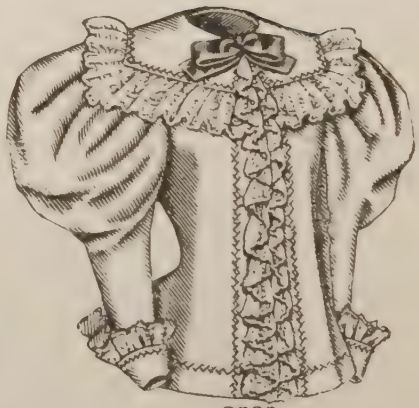
FIGURE No. 80 Y.—AT-HOME TOILETTE.—Illustrating Skirt No. 8735; 9 sizes. Waist measures, 20 to 36 inches. Price 1s. 3d. or 30 cents; and Basque-Waist No. 8715; 13 sizes. Bust measures, 28 to 46 inches. Price 1s. or 25 cents.

FIGURE No. 88 Y.—AT HOME COSTUME.—Illustrating pattern No. 8759; 13 sizes. Bust measures, 28 to 46 inches. Price 1s. 8d. or 40 cents.

8498

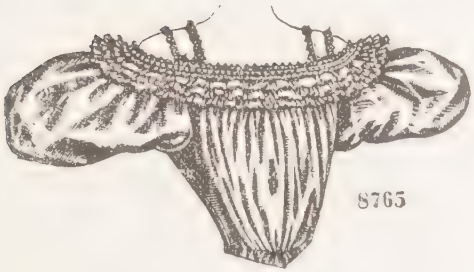
TEA-JACKET. 13 sizes. Bust measures. 28 to 46 inches. Price 1s. 3d. or 30 cents.

FIGURE No. 81 Y —PRINCESS WRAPPER.—Illustrating pattern No. 8687; 13 sizes. Bust measures, 28 to 46 inches. Price 1s. 6d. or 35 cents.



8532

DRESSING-SACK. 14 sizes. Bust measures, 28 to 48 inches. Price 1s. or 25 cents.

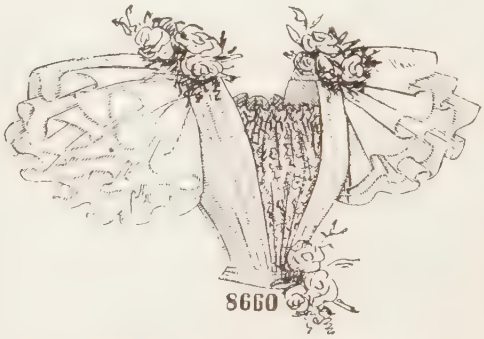


EVENING WAIST. 10 sizes. Bust measures, 30 to 42 inches. Price 1s. or 25 cents

FULL SKIRT. 9 sizes. Waist measures, 20 to 36 inches. Price 1s. 3d. or 30 cents.

FIGURE NO. 86 Y. — RECEPTION TOILETTE.—Illustrating Skirt No. 8735: 9 sizes. Waist measures, 20 to 36 inches. Price 1s. 3d. or 30 cents; and Waist No. 8801: 11 sizes. Bust measures, 30 to 44 inches. Price 1s. or 25 cents.

EVENING CLOAK. 10 sizes. Bust measures, 28 to 46 inches. Price 1s. 8d. or 40 cents.



8660

EVENING WAIST. 13 sizes. Bust measures, 28 to 46 inches. Price 1s. or 25 cents.

8799

EVENING WRAP. 10 sizes. Bust measures, 28 to 46 inches. Price 1s 8d. or 40 cents.

8621

PRINCESS EVENING DRESS. 13 sizes. Bust measures, 28 to 46 inches. Price 1s. 6d. or 35 cents.

FIGURE No. 337 R.—EMPIRE DRESS FOR BRIDESMAIDS.—Illustrating pattern No. 8332; 7 sizes. Ages, 10 to 16 years. Price 1s. 6d. or 35 cents.

FIGURE No. 176 T.—DRESS FOR MAID OF HONOR.—Illustrating pattern No. 8520; 10 sizes. Ages, 3 to 12 years. Price 1s. or 25 cents.

FIGURE No. 181 T.—DRESS FOR MAID OF HONOR.—Illustrating pattern No. 8509; 8 sizes. Ages, 2 to 9 years. Price 10d. or 20 cents.

FIGURE No. 238 T.—BRIDESMAIDS' DRESS.—Illustrating pattern No. 8622: 9 sizes. Ages, 8 to 16 years. Price 1s. 3d. or 30 cents.

FIGURE No. 180 T.—DRESS FOR MAID OF HONOR.—Illustrating pattern No. 8521; 9 sizes. Ages, 2 to 10 years. Price 10d. or 20 cents.

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